Two Billion Dreams...

Celebrating India-Africa Friendship

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HANDS ACROSS THE OCEAN

Manmohan Singh

Prime Minister of India

Meles Zenawi

Prime Minister of Ethiopia

सत्यमेव जयते

FOREWORD

A TIME FOR RENEWAL

The India-Africa partnership is based on firm historical foundations. Through the decades it has grown into one of the most productive and durable partnerships, befitting the increased interdependence among nations that characterises the 21st Century. Our similar historical experiences have engendered a common worldview. Understanding and sensitivity to each other's strengths, requirements and constraints gives our partnership lasting strength and resilience.

For the people of India, Africa is the land of awakening of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. In the middle of the last century, within a decade of each other, both India and Africa broke through the yoke of colonial domination after a long and painful struggle. In those initial days, when we were taking the first steps for socio-economic advancement, we stood by each other. Our bonds of empathy and cooperation have since been visible in our cooperation in several global fora over the past several decades.

India is today on a path of rapid economic growth. Africa is witnessing a phase of robust resurgence. Some of the world's fastest-growing economies are in Africa.

Africa is blessed with a young and dynamic population. This is complemented by a visionary leadership which is keen to see the continent realise its true potential. Both our peoples desire a better and healthier life. New opportunities for cooperation, therefore, beckon us.

This is the time for India and Africa to renew and redirect their age-old bonds of friendship to respond to the aspirations of their peoples.

I am happy to note that the high level of political commitment on both sides to India-Africa cooperation is ably supported by our entrepreneurs, scholars, writers and media. India and Africa are blessed with a large pool of immensely talented business people driven by a remarkable entrepreneurial spirit. They deserve our full support and guidance in harnessing trade and investment opportunities.

There is a lot that we can learn from each other's development experiences. India's engagement with Africa is marked by a strong focus on capacity-building. Apart from contributing to human resource development and strengthening of institutions in various African countries, India-Africa cooperation is also aimed at facilitating greater intra-African cooperation.

Our common interests help us to address global issues together. Poverty, hunger and disease are our biggest challenges. As part of South-South Cooperation, we must pool our knowledge and wisdom in addressing global challenges. These include protection of the environment, development of alternative and renewable sources of energy, the menace of terrorism and extremism, and the establishment of a democratic, equitable and just international order.

The rise of India and Africa is opening new windows for our collaboration. Working hand in hand, India and Africa can contribute to each other's welfare and prosperity and thereby to global peace, stability and development. The India-African Forum Summit offers an ideal platform to do so. Together with our African partners, we will work towards its success.

Manmohan Singh

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India

(Left) Indian and African leaders with artistes after a cultural programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan during the first India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in April 2008.

INDIA MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

Meles Zenawi

India has always mattered to Africa. India has always been a principled and unwavering supporter of Africa's struggle against colonialism. It has been a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement and the struggle of developing countries for a fairer global order. India has since its independence supported Africa's development efforts, particularly in education. The issue at hand is, therefore, not why India matters to Africa as such, but why India matters to Africa now more than ever.

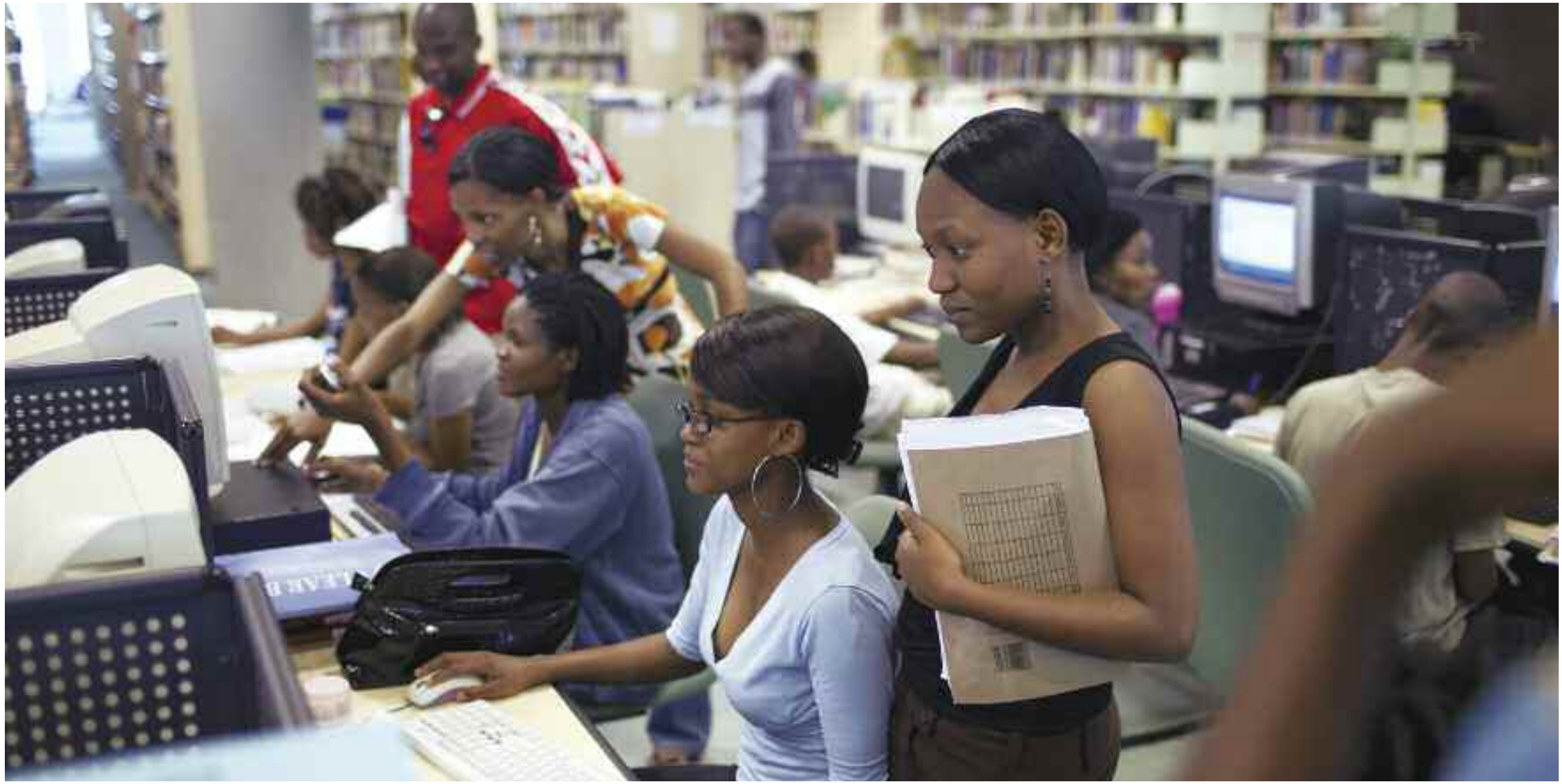
India matters to Africa more than ever before because India has now incomparably more means to support Africa economically and because Africa itself is on the move after decades in the doldrums.

Since the early 1990s, India has achieved extraordinary levels of growth. This has increased the means at its disposal to support its long-term friend Africa. India has success stories to share with Africa. Africa, in turn, is better placed than ever to make use of such friendly assistance.

Even though India has made tremendous progress since its independence, and particularly over the past two decades, it is not yet free from poverty. It can use every rupee it earns to fight its own poverty and yet India

(Top) India and Africa are home to an overwhelmingly young population.

(Left) Young parliamentarians from African countries on a visit to New Delhi, India.



(Top) Students at a library at the University of Botswana in Gaborone.

(Right) A woman after casting her vote at Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

has chosen to share its resources with Africa. This is proof, if any proof is needed, that India's support for Africa is not a matter of the philanthropy of the rich, but an expression of deep human solidarity between friendly peoples. This is unique in the annals of development cooperation.

True to its fundamental national philosophy, India has never attempted to impose itself on Africa or lecture to it. All assistance provided by India is based on respect for Africa and its own independent choices. This, too, is a reflection of the depth of the spirit of solidarity between India and Africa, and is unique in the annals of development cooperation.

Africa needs massive investment in infrastructure as infrastructural bottlenecks constitute a major problem of development in the continent. It needs to create an educated and skilled workforce. Last, but not least, it needs all the foreign direct investment it can get to develop its economy, particularly the agricultural and manufacturing sectors.

India is very well placed to provide such assistance. Indian companies have gained experience in the field through the massive investment in infrastructure taking place in their own country. With support from the Indian government, these companies can contribute a lot to reduce the infrastructure gaps in Africa. India has always contributed to education and training in Africa, and this can be intensified further. Indian companies, many of which have long-standing ties with Africa and know how to operate in less than perfect investment environments, can redouble their investment in the continent. In short, India is very well placed to play an even greater role in the renewal and renaissance of our continent. That is why India matters to us Africans more than ever before.

Ethiopia has been a prime beneficiary and an important actor in India-Africa cooperation. The Indian government has provided us with over $700 million of soft loans for various projects in our country and a number of Indian companies are engaged in infrastructure projects throughout our country. Thousands of Ethiopians are being taught by Indian teachers both in India and here in Ethiopia. Billions of dollars worth of investment are being implemented by Indian companies in Ethiopia. That is why India matters more than ever before to us both as Africans and as Ethiopians.

(Top) Delegates from developing countries at the Taj Mahal in Agra after participating in the India-LDC conference in New Delhi.

(Top right) Nigerian students competing for scholarships at the National Institute for Information Technology, Lagos.

(Below right) Downtown Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during rush hour.

A MODEL OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Jean Ping

Chairperson of Commission of the African Union

Today, the African renaissance is no longer a mirage or a trendy movement. The groundwork for change has been partly laid and conditions now exist for the process to be enhanced — through the translation of the idea from a dream to a practical roadmap for action to accelerate Africa's development and deepen its stake in global affairs

(Top) Dressing for school in Botswana. The country has made big strides in education since independence in 1966.

(Right) The African Renaissance Monument. The 49-m tall bronze statue is located on top of one of the twin hills known as Collines des Mamelles, outside Dakar, Senegal, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

The African Renaissance is not a new invention at all. It is drawn from the deep well of the struggle that Africans have engaged in to assert themselves and break loose from bondage. African leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere and Steve Biko preached the same concept when they propagated self-reliance, economic recovery, political and economic independence, democratic governance and development.

Over the years, many others have pursued the idea that Africa must rise to establish a Pan-Africa identity and re-claim its position in the Commonwealth of Nations. Since the well-known 1995 meeting held in Sun City, it has been acknowledged that the 21st century must be Africa's century, the century of African renaissance, and the era of the re-birth and renewal of the Continent of Africa.

Today, this renaissance is no longer a mirage or a trendy movement. The groundwork for change has been partly laid and conditions now exist for the process to be enhanced — through the translation of the idea from a dream to a practical roadmap for action to accelerate Africa's development and deepen its people's stake in global affairs.

Indeed, the continental process of total liberation from colonialism was achieved with the demise of apartheid; the world has been marked by very great changes, particularly globalisation and multipolarity since.

Africa, which now boasts of new aspirations, new determination and a new breed of leadership, is pursuing an irreversible process of integration and development based on a common African identity. The transformation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU) marked the beginning of this change. Ten years on, there have been many milestones on the roadmap of African governance: the AU

A MODEL OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Africa, which now boasts of new aspirations, new determination and a new breed of leadership, is pursuing an irreversible process of integration and development based on a common African identity. The transformation of the Organisation of African Unity into the African Union marked the beginning of this change

(Right) Miss New Sudan beauty pageant in Juba, South Sudan.

(Far right) A call centre in Algiers. Algeria is in the midst of an IT boom.

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MISS MALAIKA 2010

Africa is gaining strategic importance and attracting attention from a variety of partners, especially new and emerging players like India

(Top) Two Beninese girls. India is one of Benin 's top trading partners.

is endowed with organs like the Commission, the Pan-African Parliament, the African Court of Justice and Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, and the Economic Social and Cultural Council.

Additionally, the African Union Commission is implementing a vital four-year plan in its pursuit of building an integrated continent. This is the Strategic 2009-12 plan, which is essentially the commission's framework articulated around four major pillars: Peace and Security, Integration, Development and Cooperation, Shared Values, and Institutional and Human Capacity Building. Significant progress has been made in all these areas.

In the area of peace and security, for instance, the AU now has a continental architecture for peace and security, whose keystone is the Peace and Security Council, which is like the United Nations Security Council, the key organ for global peace and security. In addition, we have the Continental Early Warning System and the African Standby Force. This African Standby Force (AFS) is composed of five multidimensional regional brigades, including standby multidisciplinary contingents with civilian and military components and ready for rapid deployment at appropriate notice. The structure of this architecture, its objectives, its principles, its composition, and its modes of operation confirm the resolve of African leaders to act on their own and to take their destiny into their hands, especially in the area of conflict management. It has to be pointed out that the AU has been despatching peacekeeping forces regularly to conflict areas.

In the area of integration, development and cooperation, recent years have seen tangible progress made by many African countries in reforming their economies and in creating an enabling environment to bring about equitable growth and poverty alleviation.

This shows the will of African leaders to lift the continent out of underdevelopment. In fact, these improvements helped Africa to insulate itself from the recession during the global crisis of 2009. The evidence provides new grounds for hope and suggests recovery fuelled by the continent's high economic growth, a global search for commodities that Africa has in abundance, and by an unprecedented level of foreign investment. According to an article in *The Times,* 'The African renaissance is under way', published on March 22, 2011, "Africa is on the move and a billion people, hardworking and hustling, are changing the face of a vast region, one that could accommodate China and Europe, India and the United States, with room to spare for Argentina and New Zealand!"

It is now established that Africa is gaining strategic importance and is thus attracting attention from a variety of partners, especially new and emerging players on the international scene like India, which are increasingly showing their interest in cooperating with the continent in mutually beneficial partnerships.

Africa and India are bound together by history, geography, economy, and culture. They have enjoyed centuries of good relations and have a common legacy of struggle against colonialism, imperialism, and marginalisation in global political and economic systems. Together, they account for about half the

(Top) Point Dolores, Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea.

(Right) Construction workers on a highway bridge in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

(Far right) Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea and Chairperson of the African Union.

(Right) Asian and African leaders at the golden jubilee of the 1955 Asian-African conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in 2005. The conference rejuvenated the spirit of Afro-Asian solidarity.

(Far right) Former South African President Nelson Mandela receives the International Gandhi Peace Prize from then Indian President K.R. Narayanan at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on March 16, 2001 as former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee looks on.

(Far left) Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, with Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt, and Josip Broz Tito, President of former Yugoslavia, at the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Belgrade, 1961.

(Left) African and Asian leaders at the NAM summit in 1956 at Brioni island in former Yugoslavia.

Africa and India need to seize emerging opportunities to build a partnership that can serve as a model of South-South cooperation

(Top) A mechanic working at an automobile factory in Harare, Zimbabwe.

(Right) Melrose Square, Johannesburg, by night.

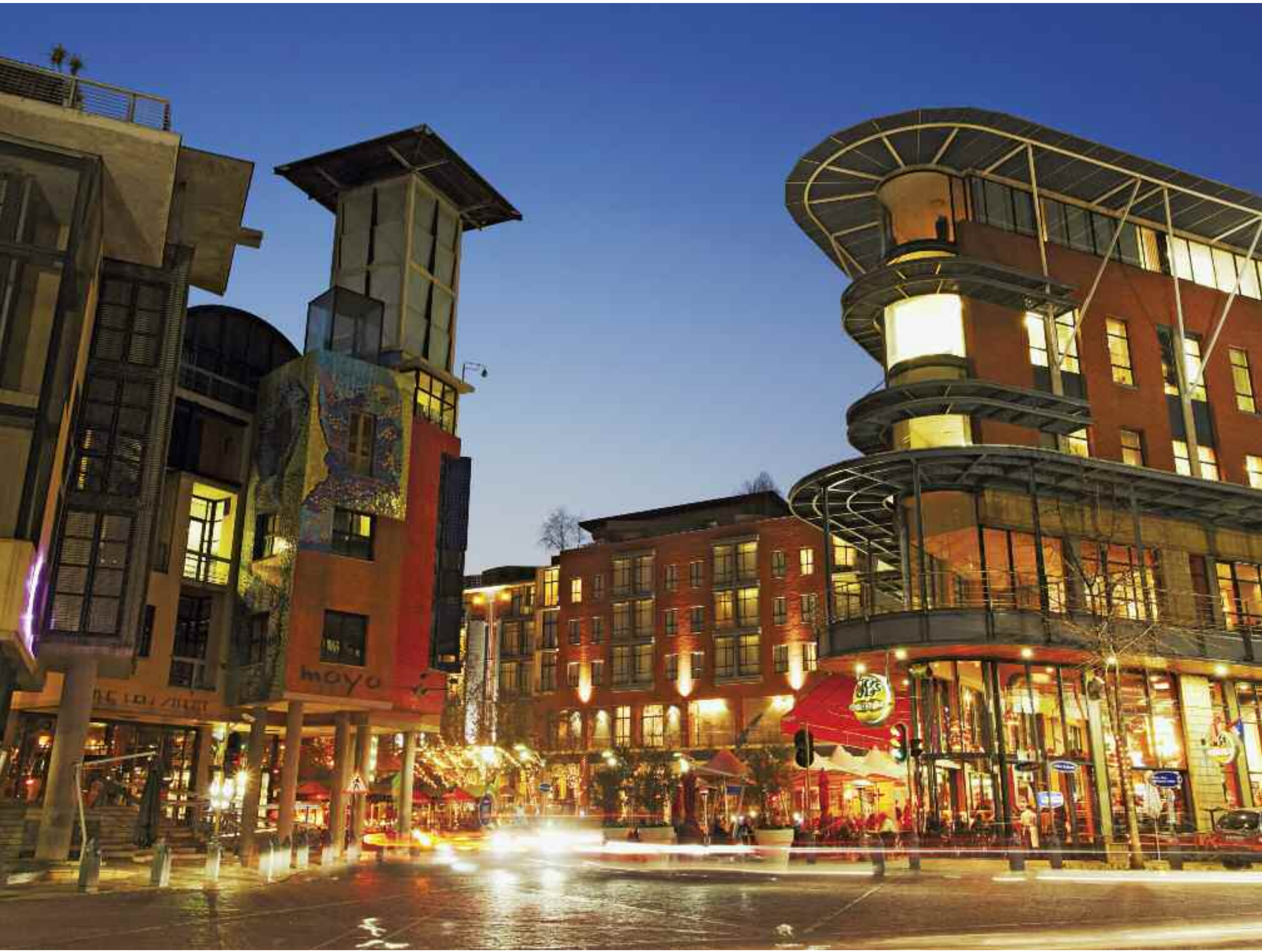
world's total population. India is rapidly becoming a major global economic power that derives strength from its huge domestic market, human capital development, and advancement in science and technology. Africa, which is India's next door neighbour, is widely regarded as the next and perhaps the last global frontier whose development potentials remain to be tapped. It is the continent that is most richly endowed with natural resources, which are much sought after by many global economic powers to sustain their growth and prosperity.

Through political and economic reforms, a conducive environment is being created for trade and investment while the process of the creation of a Pan-African integrated market of about 1 billion people is being accelerated. Africa and India need to take advantage of their proximity and seize the emerging opportunities on both sides to build a partnership that can serve as a model of South-South cooperation and "deliver values" to their respective peoples.

To meet the challenges of development in the 21st century, Africa seeks to improve its participation in the global economic and trading system through economic diversification and reduction of heavy dependence on the economies of the traditional partners of the North. It is in this regard that the AU has accorded high priority to the development of Africa's strategic partnerships with the emerging powers of the South, including India.

In this connection, in January 2007 the AU Executive Council adopted a framework for the establishment and operationalisation of Africa's partnerships with the emerging powers of the South. According to the framework, the partnerships must be those of co-development and mutual benefit and be qualitatively different from Africa's existing relationships with the traditional partners of the North. The major priorities of Africa in the partnerships include the acceleration of industrialisation, infrastructural advancement, agricultural development, human capital development, technology and knowledge acquisition and development, the development of a modern services sector, and the enhancement of market access. I am happy to note that these priorities have been reflected in the Framework of Cooperation of the 2008 Africa-India Forum Summit held in New Delhi.

Within this framework, a programme for human development in Africa is being jointly implemented. Initiatives within the programme include the establishment of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) centres in 10 African countries: the creation of four Africa-India centres of excellence (Institutes for Diamond, Foreign Trade, Information and Technology, and Education Planning and Administration); the reinforcement of three African Scientific Research Institutions; and support for the establishment of Pan-African Stock Exchanges. In addition, India has agreed to contribute to Africa's human capacity building by providing specialised trainings in critical sectors such as agriculture and small and medium-scale enterprises. Particularly worthy of note is the commitment of India to the mainstreaming of regional components into the framework of Africa-India cooperation. I wish to commend India for these achievements of cooperation. I have no doubt that if the agreed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Africa did not have to wait for a full recovery in the traditional markets. The continent's growing trade and economic relations with India and other emerging powers of the South enabled it to return quickly to the path of sustained growth

(Left) Cargo handling at Abidjan port, Cote d'Ivoire.

Given the proximity of India and Africa and the growing complementarity of their economies, a great deal of trade and investment potential remains to be harnessed. This is a challenge which the India-Africa partnership should help to meet

(Top) Rush hour near the Cathedral Church of Christ, Lagos, Nigeria.

(Left) Downtown Maputo, Mozambique.

activities and initiatives are effectively implemented, they will create possibilities and deliver values to the peoples of Africa and India.
Africa's experience in the recent global economic and financial crisis has provided some justification for the high priority that the continent is placing on the development of partnerships with the emerging powers of the South. Although the global crisis was not of Africa's making, the continent's impressive growth of about 6 percent per annum since the early 2000s had been reduced to less than 2 percent by 2009. The good news is that unlike in previous crises, Africa did not have to wait for a full recovery in the traditional markets. The continent's growing trade and economic relations with India and other emerging powers of the South, which have continued to achieve rapid economic growth in the midst of the crisis, enabled it to return quickly to the path of sustained economic growth. Given the proximity of India and Africa and the growing complementarity of their economies, a great deal of trade and investment potential remains to be harnessed. This is a challenge, which the India-Africa partnership should help to meet.

Africa attaches great importance to increasing its share in global trade and improving its structure as well as a means of reducing its dependence on aid for the attainment of rapid economic growth and development. It is in this regard that I wish to express the gratitude of the AU Commission to the Government of India for the grant of duty-free tariff preference to 33 African countries. To date, 19 African countries have become part of the initiative.

I wish to appeal to the remaining 14 countries to take full advantage of the initiative. I wish to end on a note of optimism about the future of Africa-India partnership. I have no doubt that Africa and India can build a partnership that can serve as a model of South-South cooperation. It is more than doable.

CATALYST FOR AFRICA'S RESURGENCE

John Kufuor

Former President of Ghana

CATALYST FOR AFRICA'S RESURGENCE

The reinvigoration of the India-Africa relationship has the potential to create a new platform for South-South dialogue and a mutually beneficial partnership that can enhance developmental prospects in both India and Africa

(Top) Commercial centre in Dakar, Senegal.

(Right) Software professionals at an IT company in India.

The last two decades have seen a resurgence in relations between India and Africa. India's reputation as the new centre for technology and commerce in Asia has attracted a number of African leaders to the subcontinent. India's economic growth is facilitating a new phase of South–South engagement, especially with regard to its long-standing relationship with its 'near neighbours' in Africa. The reinvigoration of the India-Africa relationship has the potential to create a new platform for South-South dialogue and a mutually beneficial partnership that can enhance developmental prospects in both Africa and India.

Relations between India and Africa date back centuries and hark back to a time when Indian merchants conducted trade along the eastern littoral of the African continent. During that period, there was a large amount of commerce and migration between the Indian subcontinent and Africa. After the abolition of slavery in the 19th century, thousands of Indians were recruited to work in southern and eastern Africa, which gave rise to the vibrant Indian communities found in Africa. Over the years, they have made a significant contribution to the social, economic and political fabric of the continent.

One of the greatest links between India and Africa can be found in India's Father of the Nation, Mohandas K. Gandhi, better known as Mahatma. His political career began on the African continent, in South Africa, where he stayed from 1893-1914, and became personally involved in the anti-colonial movement and the fight for civil rights. It was during these struggles that he developed his hallmark approach of 'satyagraha', or nonviolent resistance to tyranny, an approach that led India to achieve independence in 1947. The former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, has rightly remarked, "You gave us Gandhi, we gave you the Mahatma." Indian independence was an inspiration to Africa, which was still bound by the

CATALYST FOR AFRICA'S RESURGENCE

India's charismatic first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, cemented the Indo-African relationship and gave it a political structure in his quest for liberation of all nations from colonial rule

(Top) Jawaharlal Nehru, first Prime Minister of India, being received by Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, then Prime Minister of Nigeria, at Lagos airport in 1962.

(Left) Victoria Harbour in Mahe, Seychelles.

shackles of colonialism during that time. African independence crusaders were motivated by Gandhi's approach and philosophy and this inspired leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia in their own national liberation campaigns.

India's charismatic first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, cemented the Indo-African relationship and gave it a political structure in his quest for liberation of all nations from colonial rule. Under his premiership India supported national liberation movements in Africa generously, both financially and politically. Nehru's leading role in convening the first Asian-African Conference, along with China's Zhou Enlai, Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser, Ghana's Nkrumah, Indonesia's Sukarno, and Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh, paved the way first for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 1955 and later for the Group of 77 (G77) in 1964.

India's political commitment to the NAM and its emphasis on South-South cooperation has left it well positioned to take up engagements across the continent and forge new ties, as it has done in recent years. South-South regional associations, such as the G77, are being re-invigorated and bilateral agreements and diplomatic ties are flourishing.

As an emerging global player, one of the two main 'Asian Drivers', a BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) country, a key player in the G77, a member of the G20 and a significant voice at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India has a potentially significant role to play in Africa's resurgence. Many countries in the South, particularly in Africa, are looking to India to utilise its privileged position in the global economy to advocate and protect their interests in various fora such as G20 and WTO.

India has the advantage of being both a developed and developing nation (in different respects) and therefore can act as a bridging nation between the developed and the developing world. As a long-standing friend to Africa, India can harness its links with developed and developing countries to benefit Africa by partnering with Africans to enhance their economies, private sectors and human resources.

Economic relations between India and Africa are rapidly on an upswing and look set to burgeon in the coming years. Trade between India and African nations grew from $3.39 billion in 2000 to $30 billion for the year 2007, and it is projected that India-Africa bilateral trade will grow to $150 billion by 2012.

Business and trade relationships are central to underpinning Indo-African ties. Commercial ties are further strengthened through initiatives such as the Focus on Africa programme, which fosters an enabling environment for Indian companies trading in African nations.

There is considerable support from both Indian and African governments for these growing economic relations. These linkages are being carefully cultivated in fora such as the India Africa Forum Summit. The Africa–India Framework for

CATALYST FOR AFRICA'S RESURGENCE

Agriculture and food security are two areas in which Indian knowledge and experience are vital to Africa. The success of the Green Revolution in India enabled a populous nation to achieve food security and African nations have much to learn in this regard as food security is still a stumbling block for many countries on the continent

(Top) Taj Cape Town, owned by the Tata group, India's largest business house.

(Right) Seafront at Luanda. Angola is one of Africa's largest oil producers.

Cooperation, adopted during the 2008 summit, promises to elevate the scope of Indian–African partnership and thereby challenge the existing uneven architectures of economic, political and institutional power.

India's burgeoning economic expansion in Africa is demonstrated by the diverse portfolio of Indian investment activity on the continent: from numerous small family firms and small and medium enterprises; through to large-scale bids by Indian companies or groups such as the Tatas, Essar and Bharti Airtel. Through these investments, India and Africa are able to solidify economic ties and use these to enhance the performance of a wide range of sectors.

Africa can harness India's expertise in creating a knowledge economy for sustainable development. India is second to none in its experience in this endeavour, especially in the context of low-income societies, and is able to channel this experience to Africa. Agriculture and food security are other areas in which Indian knowledge and experience are vital to Africa. The success of the Green Revolution in India enabled a populous nation to achieve food security and African nations have much to learn from India in this regard as food security is still a stumbling block for many countries on the continent.

Internationally, India is regarded as an IT superpower and it can assist Africa in bridging the digital divide. The Pan-African e-Network, launched in July 2007 in Addis Ababa, goes some way in achieving this by providing facilities for tele-education, tele-medicine and network video conferencing for universities, education centres and clinics across the continent through a network of satellite, fibre optics and wireless connections.

Over recent decades India has successfully harnessed its human resource capacity. This is currently a great challenge in Africa and India can be a source of enlightenment in this regard. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP) provide the opportunity for the people of Africa to upgrade their skills in areas such as IT and computing, which in turn benefit the continent as a whole by ensuring the international competitiveness of its people. Through its focus on providing short training programmes in areas as diverse as small and medium-scale industries, rural credit programmes, food processing, textiles and women's entrepreneurship, the ITEC also provides a means of strengthening private sector development, a key component of Africa's resurgence.

India has been extremely forthcoming in the creation of initiatives to bolster Indo-African partnerships for mutual benefit. The Techno-Economic Approach for Africa–India Movement (TEAM-9) initiative is one such example, as it aims to improve food security, healthcare, telecommunications and transport through a technological focus on eight West African countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal.

India has also been particularly generous

Ghana's Presidential Palace, originally christened Jubilee House to mark the 50th anniversary of independence but later re-named Flagstaff House, stands as a monument of friendship between Ghana and India and is a centrepiece of Accra

(Top) Flagstaff House, the Presidential Palace in Accra, Ghana, was built with Indian assistance.

(Left) Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, Accra.

in providing much-needed development assistance to countries in Africa. India has cancelled the debts of five countries in Africa — Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia — while its EXIM Bank has extended lines of credit to institutions in a number of African countries, including Angola, Djibouti, Ghana, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, and Zambia.

India and Ghana have a particularly special bond, which was built on by Ghana's first President Nkrumah and India's first Prime Minister, Nehru. Significantly, India House, the residence of the High Commissioner of India, is situated across the road to Flagstaff House, the office of president Nkrumah, underlining the special relationship between India and Ghana. It was on account of this special bond that my administration decided to collaborate with Indian partners in the building of the new Presidential Palace. India offered invaluable technical and financial assistance in this joint venture and the partnership resulted in the creation of a particularly unique architectural edifice that encapsulates Ghanaian culture and tradition.

The building, originally christened Jubilee House to mark the 50th anniversary of independence but later re-named Flagstaff House, stands as a monument of friendship between Ghana and India and is a centrepiece of the nation's capital.

India has demonstrated a commitment to Ghana's development agenda by not only providing lines of credit and grants, but also through investments and partnerships with Ghana with companies, in a range of sectors in the Ghanaian economy. For example, in the agriculture sector, Indian company, Hazel Mercantile, has invested $45 million in Ghana in a project to grow jatropha for biodiesel. In the manufacturing sector, Indian corporate stalwart Mahindra & Mahindra has made a huge investment in collaboration with Zoom Lion Ghana to build a tractor assembly plant and technology transfer centre in Kumasi. Also in this sector, a memorandum of understanding was signed in July 2010 between India and Ghana for setting up a $1.2 billion joint venture fertiliser project, using gas to manufacture fertiliser.

The manufacturing and agriculture sectors are not the only ones in Ghana that have benefited from Indian investments. Information technology in Ghana has received a tremendous amount of backing from India. During my watch as president, the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence for ICT was established by a significant contribution from the Indian government. NIIT, an Indian-owned ICT educational organisation, is developing the human resource capacity of many Ghanaians by providing training in a number of different IT programmes. With regard to the ICT commercial market, Bharti Airtel has successfully bought out Zain and entered into Ghana's tele-communications sector.

In addition to the IT sector, Ghana's booming financial sector is also attracting Indian investment. One of India's reputable banks, Bank of Baroda, has established a branch in Ghana and Ghana welcomes further investment from

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CATALYST FOR AFRICA'S RESURGENCE

India's solidarity with African countries such as Ghana and its respect for sovereignty of other nations strengthens progressive economic, social and political forces in Africa

(Top) Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna (left) with his Sudanese counterpart Ali Ahmed Karti in New Delhi.

(Left) An overview of the Tata Motors facility in Johannesburg, South Africa.

India's financial organisations. Ghana and India are committed to the achievement of sustainable, equitable development. This underscores the importance of Ghanaian and Indian partnerships in areas that will impact directly on this goal. An important development in this area is the increased collaboration between Ghanaian and Indian pharmaceutical companies to manufacture and supply quality, affordable drugs to Ghana's health sector.

These partnerships enable Ghana to benefit from India's 'Triple A technology' (affordable, available, adaptable) that is well suited to Ghanaian markets. The collaboration between India and Ghana in the rural electrification project is another means by which the marginalised are being incorporated into Ghana's development process.

India's solidarity with African countries such as Ghana and its respect for sovereignty of other countries strengthens progressive economic, social and political forces in Africa. The heightened interest in rekindling long-standing ties to Africa offers the continent new avenues of growth and progress towards equitable and sustainable development. The present challenge is for leaders in Africa and India to harness these linkages so that they are mutually beneficial to their countries, sectors and peoples.

FOR A NEW GLOBAL ORDER

Cheick Sidi Diarra

United Nations Under-Secretary General and UN Special Advisor on Africa

Relations between India and Africa date back many centuries. Traders had crossed the Indian Ocean at least since the first century, and the expansion of the European empires, particularly the British, saw Indian immigrants resettled along the eastern coast of Africa. During decolonisation, India offered its solidarity to Africa in its struggle for independence. The relationship has further deepened in recent years, reflecting the increasing economic interaction between the two rising powers

(Top) Ahmed Sekou Toure, former President of Guinea, with Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, in New Delhi, 1960.

(Right) A view of central Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The global economy is undergoing dramatic changes and its centre of gravity is shifting towards the East and the South. The economic rise of Brazil, China, India, South Africa, Turkey and other emerging economies and the resurgence of Africa are creating a multipolar world economy that requires a rebalanced global governance architecture. India and Africa, tied together by strong historical bonds and increasingly close political and economic relations, are two of the major players that could shape our global future, and can only benefit from cooperating closely in advocating for a multilateral and democratic global governance regime.

Relations between India and Africa date back many centuries. Traders had crossed the Indian Ocean at least since the first century, and the expansion of the European empires, particularly the British, saw Indian immigrants resettled along the eastern coast of Africa. During decolonisation, India offered its solidarity to Africa in its struggle for independence. The relationship has further deepened in recent years, reflecting the increasing economic interaction between the two rising powers.

In this new global environment, African countries have taken the lead in setting the continent on a path of sustainable economic and social progress. The African renaissance manifested itself in the launch of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in July 2001. This Africa-owned and Africa-led vision allows African countries to take full control of their development agenda, to cooperate more effectively with their international partners, and to claim a fair role in the global arena.

Greater unity and closer cooperation have allowed Africa to take this initiative, and its concerns and views have been progressively taken into consideration in the global agenda as a result. It has forged a common position on UN reforms, calling for more representation

TANZANIA POSTAL BANK

(Left) A panoramic view of Cape Town, South Africa, with the Table Mountain in the background.

(Top) A bustling market in Conakry, Guinea.

India's cooperation with Africa has not only focused on trade, but also technology transfer, capacity building and human resource development

(Top) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with South Africa's President Jacob Zuma and his wife, Nompumelelo Ntuli Zuma, along with India's President Pratibha Patil, during Zuma's visit to India in June 2010.

(Overleaf) Ruins of the majestic Temple of Luxor, Egypt.

of the continent and other regions on the Security Council, and has developed a common position on climate change and the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, a series of global and bilateral partnerships involving the continent were established to address development and financing issues.

Along with the African renewal movement, African economies have expanded gradually. GDP growth rates reached nearly 6 percent per annum during the first eight years of the new millennium, almost matching India's and China's growth performance. One key aspect of Africa's recent resurgence, which differentiates it from the oil boom of the 1970s, is the greater stability in the political and macro-economic climate, accompanied by structural reforms. These efforts have allowed African economies to grow in a more peaceful and secure environment, a necessary precondition for socio-economic development. As a result, African economies have shown resilience during the recent global economic crisis, growing by about 2 percent in 2009 and an estimated 5 percent in 2010 and thus recovering faster than the global economy. This performance is even more striking when compared to the lost decades of the 1980s and 1990s during which real GDP per capita fell by 42.5 percent, according to some estimates.

Prudent macro-economic policies have also allowed African economies to take advantage of a combination of favourable external factors, including high commodity prices, foreign direct investment, sustained aid, debt relief and remittances. All of these factors are at least partly attributable to the rise of emerging economies and the dynamism they have brought to the world economy. The resulting growth in Africa, however, has not been driven only by commodity exports, but also by an expansion in services such as wholesale and retail trade, banking, telecommunications, tourism, and construction.

Against this background, Africa's growth and India's simultaneous rise has led to a dramatic increase in trade relations between the two regions. India's exports to Africa, only $1.5 billion in 1995, reached a historic high of $45 billion in 2010. While Indian imports from Africa have also surged, particularly in the very recent past, they remain dominated by commodities, and are also much more geographically concentrated. Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt and Angola account for more than two-thirds of all imports from the continent.

India's cooperation with Africa has not only focused on trade, but also technology transfer, capacity building and human resource development. This exemplary partnership, formalised in the Africa-India Framework for Cooperation adopted during the first ever Africa-India Forum Summit in New Delhi in 2008, is based on the principles of mutual benefit and solidarity of the South-South cooperation. As they face similar challenges, the two economies can share experiences in agriculture and industry, education, health and poverty alleviation, and good governance and democracy to enormous mutual benefit.

Today, Africa positions itself as a key partner in the global arena, its collective

(Left) State Bank in Port Louis, Mauritius.

(Top) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Brazil's former President Lula da Silva, and South Africa's President Jacob Zuma at the IBSA Summit in Brasilia, 2010.

(Below) The Piazza Verde in Tripoli, Libya.

The exemplary partnership between India and Africa, formalised in the Framework for Cooperation adopted during the first Forum Summit in New Delhi in 2008, is based on the principles of mutual benefit and solidarity of South-South cooperation

(Top) A freight train crosses Namib Desert. Namibia is seeking to become a regional transportation hub.

(Left) Waterfront in Alexandria, Egypt.

GDP of more than $1 trillion being roughly equal to Brazil's or Russia's in 2008. The continent is now home to more than a billion inhabitants, offering great market potential, thanks to the increasing purchasing power of its consumers. African economies offer higher rates of returns on investments than any other developing region. Africa is also immensely rich in natural resources, energy and minerals, carries 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land, and has a young and dynamic population. The continent thus offers promising long-term sustainable growth prospects which would be further enhanced by a deeper integration of Africa into the global economy and the global governance system. Africa needs the world and the world needs Africa.

Meanwhile, the impressive economic rise of emerging powers, including India, and of other middle-income countries like South Africa, has transformed the global environment, leading to a multipolar world. This geopolitical shift in economic influence and power calls for a more inclusive and balanced global governance. Moreover, the recent global economic and financial crisis has given a new impetus to more coordinated and inclusive global responses, as demonstrated by the emergence of the G-20 on the world stage. Climate change is another developmental challenge that can only be addressed by inclusive and coordinated action at the global level.

Consequently, it is more important than ever to hear the voices and take into account the concerns of all stakeholders and members of the global community. Africa and India are facing similar impediments and a shared destiny, and thus need to work together to address these global challenges and improve the well-being of their peoples and societies around the world. This cooperation can only effectively take place in a multilateral and democratic setting, and the UN remains the best available arena to pursue the joint goals.

Africa and India have already taken steps to participate more effectively than before by voicing their concerns and by influencing the global economic policy coordination efforts during the G-20 summits to address the consequences of the global financial and economic crises. Alongside this endeavour, the expansion of South-South cooperation between Africa and its emerging development partners, including India, contributed to the economic recovery of the continent from the crisis, on the one hand, and to the strengthening of Africa's position in the global order on the other. India and other emerging countries should continue to lead the change of perception about the African continent and make it more attractive to foreign investments.

In the context of the global governance architecture, Africa and India should step up their cooperation in order to influence the international agenda. Their shared interests will allow them to ensure that voices and concerns of the most vulnerable are taken into account and that global governance carries a holistic long-term vision of sustainable development.

TECHNOLOGY, AADHAAR AND THE POTENTIAL FOR AFRICA

Nandan Nilekani

Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India

The change that is occurring in Africa is reminiscent of what India experienced through the 1980s and 1990s as it became recognised as an economic force. Many of the challenges African nations now face remind me of the ones that India has experienced — in its efforts to overcome high incidence of poverty, growing pains of urbanisation, job creation and the design and implementation of effective welfare programmes

(Top) Stockbrokers in Mumbai, India.

(Right) Delhi Metro, the capital's pride.

In the past few years, the way people speak of Africa's potential has changed. In the 10 years leading up to 2010, the six fastest-growing economies in the world have been African. Growth in these countries has accompanied the rise of more liberal markets and the emergence of industries beyond the dominant natural resource and commodity sectors.

The change that is occurring in Africa is reminiscent of what India experienced through the 1980s and 1990s as we became recognised as an economic force. Many of the challenges African nations now face remind me of the ones that India has experienced in its efforts to overcome high incidence of poverty, the growing pains of urbanisation, the challenge of job creation and the creation of effective welfare programmes.

The Goals of Growth

As India has went years of development, a consensus took hold within the country that we needed to look beyond growth, and consider the impact of development on the reduction of poverty, and on the achievement of social goals such as health and education, and on the building of infrastructure and institutions. And, as Africa experiences rapid growth, it faces similar concerns.

Developing countries in Africa and Asia face unique challenges. They see growth rates that are far more rapid compared to what the nations of the West experienced during the 19th and 20th centuries, thanks to the leapfrogging of infrastructure and technology. India, for example, has transitioned directly from no-telephone penetration to the use of mobile phones; the software industry in India emerged early in the 1980s even as India began to record impressive GDP growth rates; the rapid urbanisation and an extremely young population are bringing millions of rural poor into the cities at a breathtaking pace.

These changes are taking place at unprecedented speed, and while this has enabled growth rates of over 6 percent in much of the developing world, it has also

THE ABC OF AADHAAR

What is Aadhaar:
A tool for social empowerment and inclusion, Aadhaar is a 12-digit number being issued to all residents by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). This number is stored in a central database and linked to some basic demographics and biometric information — photo, 10 fingerprints and iris of each individual.

Why Aadhaar:
For applicants, Aadhaar, over time, will be recognised and accepted across the country and become the basic, universal identity of residents for all public and private services. Once enrolled, service providers will no longer face the problem of performing repeated 'know your customer' checks.

Genesis of Aadhaar:
Inability to prove one's 'identity' is one of the biggest barriers preventing the poor from accessing benefits and subsidies given by the government or private agencies. Aadhaar promises an identity to every resident — children, differently-abled people, tribal people, unorganised workers, the poor and the marginalised can also secure a unique identity.

Who can get Aadhaar:
Every individual, from infants to senior citizens, who is a resident in India and satisfies the verification process laid down by the Authority can get an Aadhaar.

How to Get Aadhaar:
The resident needs to go to the nearest enrolment camp and register for an Aadhaar, along with certain specified documents. Upon registering, residents will go through a biometric scanning of 10 fingerprints and iris. They will then be photographed. The number 'Aadhaar' will be issued within 20-30 days.

How to track Aadhaar application:
Every resident seeking enrolment is given a printed acknowledgment form with an enrolment number that enables her/him to make queries through any of the communication channels — phone, fax, letter or e-mail.

What use can Aadhaar be put to:
Aadhaar means foundation. It can be used in any system that needs to establish the identity of a person seeking a service. It will particularly help the delivery of programmes on food and nutrition, employment, education, inclusion and social security, health care, and other services such as property transactions, election card, tax card and driving licence.

SIC STORE
UNIVERSE
Planet M
Curzon Court
RESTAURANT - VEG
Computer Soop
adidas
Kingfishers
SONY
SALE
GLASGOW

(Top) Indian Space Research Organisation's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle blasts off from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

(Left) A view of Bengaluru, India's technology hub, by night.

The solutions that India has adopted to meet the challenges of its growth trajectory often have at their core technology as a powerful and enabling tool. Telecom connectivity has brought mobile phone access to millions of ordinary Indians, connecting people across rural India to national and global markets

(Top) Indian farmers take part in an e-governance initiative at a panchayat, or village council, console.

(Right) A view of the ultra-modern Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

come with challenges for governments in ensuring that their citizens, particularly the poor, are equipped with the skills and support systems to participate in growth, and are not left out. The rapid pace of growth means that countries in Asia, and now in Africa, must implement innovative solutions to meet the demands of its fast-expanding middle classes and its millions of upwardly mobile, aspirational workers.

Bringing Technology to Development

The solutions that India has adopted to meet the challenges of its growth trajectory often have at their core technology as a powerful and enabling tool. Telecom connectivity has brought mobile phone access to millions of ordinary Indians, connecting people across rural India to national and global markets. Increasingly, this mobile phone infrastructure is also being leveraged in government programmes to send alerts and information to welfare beneficiaries on the delivery of subsidised food or the deposit of wages and cash benefits into their bank accounts. The use of IT has also made itself felt in the deployment of smart cards in welfare programmes such as the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana or the National Health Insurance Scheme that provides basic medical coverage to the poor. This has pointed the way to the more widespread use of technology for better governance, and one such effort that has emerged is the unique identification number project — the Aadhaar initiative.

Aadhaar translates as ‘foundation’ in several Indian languages, and the Aadhaar number is meant to serve as a foundation for enabling better, more inclusive governance and service delivery across the country. The Aadhaar initiative, which will enrol approximately 600 million people by 2014, issues a unique identification number to every Indian resident, which is linked to the person’s unique demographic and biometric information. The demographic information collected while enrolling residents for the number is basic identifying information — name, age, gender, present/permanent address; the biometric information collected is the person’s photograph, fingerprints and iris images.

By collecting such information, the project is able to ensure that there are no duplicates of the number. Every time a new identification number is issued, the biometric information is checked against the database of existing Aadhaar numbers. The number will enable the unique identification of individuals and confirmation of their identity online and in real time. An individual can provide his/her number and a piece of demographic or biometric identifying information to any agency anywhere in the country and the Aadhaar database will confirm in a few seconds whether he/she is indeed that person.

Such identifying infrastructure is a valuable one in a country which is working to tackle poverty and improve its social indicators. It allows governments and service providers to clearly identify individuals before delivering benefits and services, thus limiting the leakages and losses that often hinder large-scale welfare programmes. It also provides the potential to directly transfer benefits to the poor in the form of cash and

1 Diplomats/Officials
HSBC

(Top) A bird's eye-view of Mumbai's skyline.

(Right) The Imperial, a residential apartment block in Mumbai, is one of the tallest buildings in the country.

For Africa, the coming years may be the right time to implement technology-enabled solutions such as the unique identification number project

(Top) With nearly 800 million users, India has the second-largest mobile phone network in the world. The country adds about 18 million new connections every month.

(Left) The International Technology Park in India's Silicon Valley, Bengaluru, houses nearly 50 companies.

vouchers by linking the Aadhaar number to individual bank accounts. The mobility of the number means that migration and urbanisation do not need to come with exclusion for the poor; services that individuals are eligible for, such as a bank account, a mobile phone connection and welfare benefits, can be accessed anywhere in the country, since identity can now be established anywhere. Governments can also identify problems of exclusion more easily, such as when a child is out of school, or has failed to receive vaccinations. The ability to confirm identity online also means that governments can expand the reach of critical services such as banking more rapidly across the country, through solutions such as mobile banking.

For Africa, the coming years may be the right time to implement technology-enabled solutions such as the unique identification number. Governments across Africa have the finances for such projects — they have seen increased revenues over the last decade, thanks to the improvement in commodity prices and economic growth. African nations are already putting in place infrastructure necessary for such technology-aided projects — they have made substantial inroads in laying the fibre-optic infrastructure necessary for online connectivity, particularly in South and East Africa. Policies in Kenya, Rwanda and Nigeria have encouraged the rise of IT and telecom industries and the spread of mobile phones. South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya together produce millions of software engineers, ensuring local expertise for IT-intensive projects; countries such as Rwanda are already implementing IT solutions in education and health care and local governments in Nigeria are experimenting with biometric-based identification.

Both the technological capability and the familiarity with the infrastructure required to build an effective identification system are thus falling in place. In addition, the expansion of banking infrastructure to the African poor — with the growth of mobile banking in Kenya, and the rise of no-frills (Mzansi) accounts in South Africa — make ID-based applications such as Micro-finance and direct welfare transfers to the poor increasingly possible.

Young Nations Coming of Age

In the next few years, Africa is set to become the continent with the world's fastest growth rate and the fastest rate of urbanisation. It is also a region that will, like India, soon experience a significant demographic dividend, as its population moves from high to low fertility rates. As the region's one billion people gain a younger, more ambitious tilt, African governments will have to respond with better, more effective programmes that meet the growing demands for jobs, better services and effective infrastructure.

Technology will be a powerful tool for governments to respond rapidly and quickly to these demands. It will enable them to track progress in development efforts, inform citizens and gain feedback on their efforts, even as they build the roads and institutions that are necessary to support long-term growth. Africa is now on track for rapid development. Technology-based solutions would be a means to ensure that such growth progresses on a path that is sustainable, and inclusive.

BILLION FACES OF AFRICA

Vijay Mahajan

John P. Harbin Centennial Chair in Business at
McCombs School of Business, University of Texas

BILLION FACES OF AFRICA

Africa presents as big a market opportunity as India and China. In 2010, World Bank reported that the size of the African economy was $1.361 trillion the previous year. In the same year, the size of the Indian economy was $1.362 trillion. Africa and India had populations of 1.07 billion and 1.15 billion, respectively. Hence, the per capita income of Africa was more or less the same as that of India

(Top) Marginal Boulevard in Luanda, Angola.

(Right) The Central Bank of Kenya, Nairobi.

My book *Africa Rising: How 900 Million Consumers Offer More Than You Think* was released in late 2008. In the preface of that book I wrote:

> I am not a political scholar. I am not an economist. I am a marketing professor, so my focus is on the market opportunity. There will soon be a billion consumers on the continent of Africa, and this is one of the fastest-growing markets in the world. Every day, they need to eat. They need shelter. They want education for their children. They will like to have soaps to wash their clothes. They desire cell phones, metal roofs for their homes, televisions, music, computers, movies, bicycles, cosmetics, medicines, cars, and loans to start businesses. They celebrate marriages, births, and religious holidays and commemorate death.

In fact, borrowing a term from Unilever's marketing campaign in Harare, I had suggested that Africa was launched on a consumer safari that presented as big a market opportunity as India and China. During the recent global recession, Africa continued to hold its own. Consider the following:

In 2010, World Bank reported that the size of the African economy was $1.361 trillion the previous year. In the same year, the size of the Indian economy was $1.362 trillion. Africa and India had populations of 1.07 billion and 1.15 billion, respectively. Hence, the per capita income of Africa was more or less the same as that of India.

A report by the United Nations noted that the average household consumption expenditure across all African countries accounted for around 63 percent of the continent's economy in 2009. For India this figure was 57 percent. The economies of Africa and India were more consumer-driven than that of China. The household consumption expenditures

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Nando's
FUDDRUCKERS
VERSACE

A 2010 report by the United Nations noted that the average household consumption expenditure across all African countries accounted for around 63 percent of the continent's economy in 2009. For India, this figure was 57 percent. The economies of Africa and India were more consumer-driven than that of China

(Left) The glittering Nasr City Shopping Mall in Cairo, Egypt.

So, what are the faces of African consumers? They speak more than 1,000 languages, including some from Europe, because of their colonial connection. They are Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Jews. They are white, black and brown. It has been estimated that the African Diaspora, with perhaps 100 million members, is one of the largest in the world. Like India, a majority of the African population is young. In fact, Africa is one the youngest markets in the world, with 41 percent of its population under the age of 15

(Top) A street cafe on Harnet Street in Asmara, Eritrea.

(Right) A popular rooftop cafe at the Friendship City Centre Mall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

accounted for 37 percent of the Chinese economy, which had a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of $4.8 trillion for a population of 1.331 billion. This number is 71 percent for the US, the world's largest economy with a GDP of over $14 trillion and a population of 307 million.

A 2010 report, authored by Professor Friedrich Schneider and his associates from the Johannes Kepler University in Austria, estimated that the average size of Africa's shadow economy, as a percentage of its GDP, for the period 1999 to 2006/2007, was 40 per cent for Sub-Saharan Africa and 35 percent for North Africa. This number was 22 percent for India, a mere 12 percent for China. In other words, the actual African economy is bigger than it looks.

Make no mistake, African's billion consumers are driving the local economy in exactly the same manner as aspiring consumers anywhere else in the developing world.

Among the seven billion of us who live on this earth, 86 percent or six billion, live in developing countries, where the GDP per capita is less than $10,000 per annum. This means every sixth consumer in the developing world is located in the African continent.

But who exactly are these African consumers? What is their identity? Well, they speak more than 1,000 languages, including some of the European languages because of their colonial past. They are Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jews and many other religions beside. They are white, black and brown. It has been estimated that the African Diaspora, with perhaps 100 million members around the globe, is one of the largest. The same number for India is around 25 million. African immigrants send home $30-40 billion through remittances. The same number for India is about 40 billion. On an average, their family size is larger — five persons per household, as compared to India's four. Like India, a majority of the population is young. In fact, Africa is one the youngest markets in the world, with 41 percent of its population under the age of 15. The same number for India is 33 percent. African consumers deal with the same environment that the consumers in any developing countries deal with — lack of infrastructure, clean water, sanitation, quality education and abundance of diseases. Therefore, there are market opportunities in every sector.

Like India, there are two consumer groups that are shaping the African markets: Youth and Middle Africa.

In almost every country that I visited in Africa, entrepreneurs and executives talked about the Cheetah generation (younger) as compared to Hippo generation (older). I consider myself a member of the Hippo generation. I was born in Jammu, India, a few months after Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated and India became a Republic. I grew up hearing stories from my father about the "British Raj" and how everything that was going wrong in India at that time was the result of some "British Policy". I inherited that legend first hand.

But the young generation, like my brother's children in Jammu, is very different, the Indian equivalent of Africa's

(Left) A woman at a designer store in Addis Ababa.

(Right) Students outside their residence at the University of Botswana.

(Below) A couple shopping at a supermarket in Soweto, South Africa.

Middle Africa comprises civil servants, school-teachers, nurses, small entrepreneurs, among others. They are optimistic and want to give their children more than what they had. They see a bright future for Africa through their children

(Top) Young Sudanese working at a call centre in Khartoum.

(Right) Schoolchildren march in Mount Kupe, Nyasoso, Cameroon.
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Cheetah generation. For them, the British Raj is something that you read about in history classes. They are optimistic, technology-savvy, and well informed and want India to go someplace. Whereas I instinctively blamed the past for what I did or did not have, my nephews and nieces only saw a future full of opportunities. As a Hippo, I justified why something could not be done. As Cheetahs, my nephews and nieces wanted to know why it could not be done.

It is the same story in Africa. The Cheetah generation there sees the continent not through the prism of its colonial past but as a land of opportunities. One of my favourite stories in 'Africa Rising' is about a very happy young man I met at Goree Island, located about a mile at sea from the main harbour of Dakar, Senegal. This small island, with about a thousand inhabitants, is known for one of its oldest houses, the House of Slaves. It is a popular tourist spot and a visit to this house highlights the sad history of the slave trade throughout the Atlantic world. This young man approached me after my ferry landed at the island. He spoke several languages learnt from tourists and offered his services as a tour guide. He was born, raised and studied on the island, like his parents, and naturally seemed to know everyone. He introduced me to another guide who was the official guide for the House of Slaves. The visit to the house is a very emotional experience. You learn how the slaves were punished in a dark cave-like structure, and how the women pregnant from the Europeans would not be shipped as slaves and freed. But, then you learn about the `Door of No Return'. Some of the slaves would jump off this door to escape, only to be eaten by the sharks circling in the water. By the time I left this house to meet the young man waiting outside to finish the rest of our tour of the island, I was totally distracted. "Professor, get over it, this is history," he said. This young man had not only moved on himself but wanted the rest of us to do the same. Later, I learnt that his wife, also from Goree Island, had gone to New York on a scholarship given by an American black women's organisation to study medicine. So, here a daughter of Goree Island had gone to America not as a slave but as a bright international student full of possibilities.

The second consumer group that is pushing the frontiers of the African economy is middle Africa, what I call Africa Two. This insight did not occur to me until I had done all the interviews and market visits for 'Africa Rising'. In almost every country I travelled in Africa, companies divided the market into five segments (A, B, C, D, and E) based on income and other indicators, as is common practice in other parts of the world. The exact definitions of these segments and the percentages allotted to each segment varied from country to country, but the overall picture was the same.

What attracted me to this classification was the middle Segment C. I termed it Africa Two as opposed to Africa One (the rich A and B segments) and Africa Three (the poor segments D and E). In an inclusive economic growth, you expect upward segment migration. Segment E moving to D, D moving to C and so forth.

(Top) Children with their Masai instructor in Kenya.

The young Cheetah generation wants Africa to be a land of opportunities and move beyond its colonial history

BILLION FACES OF AFRICA

Africa is rising. A billion people are asking for their rightful place in the global marketplace

(Top) A sun-soaked beach in Goree Island, Senegal. A transit stop for slaves to America in the 19th century, Senegal is now a bustling tourist destination.

(Left) Women grading dates at a factory in Tozeur, Tunisia.

In a recession, downward migration can be expected, especially segment B moving to C, C moving to D and so on. The size of segment C or Africa Two is critical.

Africa Two represents 350 million to 500 million consumers or 70 million to 100 million households. These household numbers are very much comparable to the estimates that have been developed for India and China. So, what are the faces of Africa Two? They are civil servants, school-teachers, nurses, and people working in the African hospitality industry, small entrepreneurs and others. They are neither rich nor poor. They are optimistic and want to give their children more than what they had.

More importantly, they are people who see a bright future of Africa through their children.

I come from one of these families in India. My father was a small entrepreneur with high school education. My mother was a housewife with 8th grade education. My siblings and I are the first generation from my father's side to get college education.

Africa is rising. A billion people in Africa are asking for their rightful place in the global marketplace.

SHARING THE AFRICAN DREAM

Professor Bingu wa Mutharika

President of Malawi

Capacity-building through education is critical to Africa's development. The continent needs scientists, engineers, agronomists, medical researchers and economists. India has the capacity to train Africa in these areas

(Top) Swaziland's Foreign Minister Lutfo Ephraim Dlamini at the inauguration of the Hole-in-the-Wall Project. A cooperative venture between NIIT, a leading Indian IT education company, and International Finance Corporation, the project imparts training to students across Africa.

(Right) Students at the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT in Accra.

Africa and India are bound by a common destiny. The two continents share a relationship that goes back to ancient times. India has been at the forefront of the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggle in Africa. As an emerging economy, it has striven to contribute to the development of Africa, particularly in the areas of human resources, information and communications technology, agriculture and infrastructure development.

India fully understands the challenges Africa faces, and therefore, seeks to forge a long developmental partnership with African countries to share experience, capacity and technology in the energy sector for mutual benefit. The two sides share the view that international economic relations continue to be characterised by inequities and inequalities with large sections of the world yet to reap the benefits of globalisation. This has led to economic crises and instability in several developing countries.

Science and Technology

Capacity building through education is critical to Africa's development. We need scientists, engineers, agronomists, medical researchers and economists. India has the capacity to train Africa in these areas.

For decades, India has, through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, offered scholarships to thousands of African students to study in India. I am one of the students who benefited from such a scholarship.

I am happy that Africa and India agreed on a new Joint Action Plan of Cooperation which was launched in New Delhi on March 10, 2010. A key component of the Action Plan is capacity building under which India offers scholarships to African men and women to study in Indian universities.

The Action Plan aims at implementing key decisions of the first India-Africa Summit held in April 2008 in New Delhi.

(Left) A call centre set up by Airtel, a leading Indian telecom company, in Dar es Salaam.

(Below) Workers lay out track at Sena Line, Mozambique, built by a consortium of Rail India Technical and Economic Services and Indian Railways Construction Company.

India is one of the best countries to attain quality education. As a product of the Indian education system myself, I can unequivocally attest to the high quality of education available in India

(Top) The supercomputer PARAM Net-3, given by India to Tanzania in 2009, is used for, among other things, weather forecasting, bio-informatics and materials modelling.

(Right) Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika with students during a state visit to India in November 2010. The President, who describes himself as a 'Dilliwalla' — one who belongs to Delhi — was conferred the degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) at a special convocation at Delhi University. He studied at the Shri Ram College of Commerce and the Delhi School of Economics in the 1960s.

I must state that India is one of the best countries to attain quality education. As a product of the Indian education system, I unequivocally attest to the high quality of education available in India.

Drawing from my experience, a number of areas can be singled out for discussion but I will review only a few. First, the tremendous economic turnaround that India has achieved in the last decade or so has been facilitated by a breakthrough in technology. The Indian economy has grown tremendously to become one of the largest in the world. This economic prosperity has been driven by the Indian people themselves using locally developed technologies and equipment. The medium and small-scale industries in India are a strong driving force of this economic prosperity.

Africa's key challenges are the lack of ownership and control over science and technology and applied engineering on the one hand and the lack of capacity on the other. There is now a consensus that in order to sustain growth and spur social and economic transformation, Africa should fast-track the acquisition of appropriate science and technology as well as new capacities. This would enable its countries to convert their abundant natural resources and minerals into new wealth.

On the basis of India's experience during the past eight decades or so, I believe that Africa stands to gain by learning from this experience. In particular, Africa can utilise and adapt appropriate technologies that have been developed by India in order to add value to our products.

Development partners such as India, therefore, should support meaningful and sustainable development in Africa through capacity building in science and technology. We can build from existing cooperation arrangements to move Africa to a higher level in the application of science and technology.

Agriculture And Food Security

Agricultural development and food security are the new frontiers in capacity building cooperation between Africa and India.

I believe that if Africa is to achieve sustainable growth and development there is need for guaranteed food security. In fact, even in the case of India, sustained growth of its economy occurred only when the country made a breakthrough in agriculture in the form of "Green Revolution".

For Africa, the African Food Basket Concept which was endorsed by the Kampala Summit in July 2010, offers new hope for food security. We must develop appropriate research to increase the productivity of our food crops. There is no better partner to assist us in this research than India that achieved a "Green Revolution" by developing appropriate seeds and chemicals that revolutionised their agricultural production systems.

Statistics show that Africa now uses only about 10 percent of its arable land for agriculture and food production. The continent has, therefore, abundant land and water resources that are not being fully utilised for agricultural production. Africa can learn from our Indian partners

‘MORE POWER TO EDUCATION’

Jean-Pierre Ezin

India can transform Africa through education, says Jean-Pierre Ezin, commissioner of the African Union Commission for Human Resource and Science and Technology. “The AU looks to India to set up higher education institutions in Africa. India is doing a lot for the future of the continent and can transform the continent through education,” says Ezin.

“What we need in Africa is higher education to face global challenges. Per capita investment on education has to increase,” says Ezin, who visited India in 2010 to discuss details about training institutes that India plans to set up in the continent. “If we can put education and research at the heart of the India-Africa partnership, it will be hugely beneficial for the African continent. India can play a key role in this transformational process,” he adds.

India will also be assisting in setting up a pan-African university, a network of five proposed regional institutions devoted to specific disciplines. Disclosing the contours of the proposed pan-African university, Ezin says the AU is looking to partner India in setting up a regional institute on Life and Earth Sciences. “This is an area where we plan to develop traditional knowledge medicines. India is very strong in the traditional knowledge industry,” he says.

In March 2010, India and the AU, the pan-African body headquartered in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, launched an action plan that outlined a detailed strategy for accelerating bilateral engagement for the next four years.

The plan focuses on the development-centric partnership between India and Africa and includes the setting up of a slew of training institutes by India. “India is focused on long-term, low visibility projects which are more focused on the future of the continent. India could be key to the future of the continent,” Ezin says.

He cites the India-aided Pan-Africa e-network that seeks to bring tele-education and tele-medicine to African people as a sign of India’s empowering engagement with the continent.

“It’s a huge success. It will help in bridging the digital divide and in improving intra-African connectivity. It’s a symbol of new Africa, a symbol of India-Africa partnership,” says Ezin, AU’s pointsperson for the Pan African e-network project and various bilateral projects that flowed from the maiden India-Africa Forum Summit New Delhi hosted in April 2008.

(Manish Chand)

TRAINING GROUND

Capacity-building is at the heart of India’s engagement with Africa. India will set up 19 training institutes in various African countries. The institutes, envisaged in the Delhi Declaration that followed the first India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008, were unveiled in the joint action plan India and the African Union (AU) launched in March 2010

NAME OF THE COUNTRY	INSTITUTE	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
EAST AFRICA		
Uganda	India Africa Institute of Foreign Trade	Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
Ethiopia	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Rwanda	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Kenya	Human Settlement Institute	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation/Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council
WEST AFRICA		
Ghana	India-Africa Institute of Information Technology	Educational Consultants India Ltd.
Burkina Faso	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Gambia	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Togo	Human Settlement Institute	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation/Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council
NORTH AFRICA		
Egypt	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Libya	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Mauritania	Human Settlement Institute	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation/Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council
SOUTHERN AFRICA		
Botswana	India Africa Diamond Institute	Indian Diamond Institute, Surat
Mozambique	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Zimbabwe	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Zambia	Human Settlement Institute	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation/Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council
CENTRAL AFRICA		
Burundi	India-Africa Institute of Education, Planning and Administration	National University of Education Planning and Administration
Burundi	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Gabon	Vocational Training Centre	National Small Industries Corporation
Democratic Republic of Congo	Human Settlement Institute	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation/Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council

SHARING THE AFRICAN DREAM

Cooperation between Africa and India is historical and focuses on empowerment of people and on institution-building through human resource development. The African continent is now searching for new opportunities to partner with India to build the right capacity for a new prosperous, hunger-free, disease-free and poverty-free Africa

(Top) Dock workers at a crane rig in Luanda, Angola.

how to develop simple technologies for use by small farmers in irrigation, thereby reducing heavy dependence on rain-fed agriculture.

In Malawi, we are developing the "Greenbelt Project" that would bring up to a million hectares under irrigation. We will utilise abundant water resources which the Almighty has blessed us with to increase productivity.

I am glad to say that the Malawi Government has reached an agreement with the Government of India under which the latter will finance the acquisition of various equipment and technologies needed to achieve food security in our country. Experts will be sent to learn from Indian partners about extensive low-cost irrigation schemes, especially for the poor and low-income groups.

New Opportunities

Cooperation between Africa and India is historical and focuses on empowerment of people and institution building through human resource development.

The African continent is now searching for new opportunities to partner with India to build the right capacity for a new prosperous, hunger-free, disease-free and poverty-free Africa. This is achievable through the transfer of human skills and technology from India to Africa.

I always quote the old adage that "to know what to do and how to do it is a good thing". Therefore, for any development to take place, policy makers and those who carry out such policies must know what they are doing. This is because economic and industrial developments do not come about by chance but through deliberate policies and programmes towards specific objectives and priorities.

In my book *The African Dream: From Poverty to Prosperity*, I have asserted that African leaders have now fully recognised their role as drivers of change. The African people are moving from Afro-pessimism to Afro-optimism. They are ushering in an Africa of new beginnings. This is the African Dream. Africa should be in the hands of Africans just as India is in the hands of Indians.

(Top) Diamonds are forever: India provides technical assistance to several African countries in diamond polishing and plans to set up a training institute in Botswana.

(Right) Teachers from Nakuru Primary School in Kenya with a senior official of Essar Telecommunication as they receive a donation from the firm for the school.

African leaders now fully recognise their role as drivers of change. The African people are moving from Afro-pessimism to Afro-optimism. They are ushering in an Africa of new beginnings. This is the African Dream. Africa's destiny should be in the hands of Africans just as India's is in the hands of Indians

(Top) African students at a lecture at a solar energy equipment manufacturing unit in Jaipur, India.

‘AFRICA SHOULD EMULATE INDIA’S IT SUCCESS’

Tanzania, East Africa’s vibrant economy, is looking to India for training and capacity-building in the IT sector that has the potential to transform the lives of ordinary people. “Tanzania and Africa should emulate the success of India in the IT sector. IT has a huge potential in transforming the lives of ordinary people,” says John W.A. Kondoro, Principal of the Dar-es-Salaam Institute of Technology that houses the India-Tanzania Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology.

India has a big role to play in creating new IT applications to benefit the African people, Kondoro says in his office located on the first floor of the institute in Dar-es-Salaam, where over 200 Tanzanian students have done India-aided computer courses that last from three to six weeks. Taking IT to rural areas and to farmers that will enable farmers to keep themselves updated with the latest information related to the pricing of their agricultural produce is one area that will make a huge difference in transforming the rural landscape.

“India can help us in taking IT to farmers”, he stresses. Weather forecasting is another important area where an IT-savvy India can play a crucial role. That’s because the economy of this country continues to be heavily dependent on agriculture. India has given Tanzania a $40 million line of credit for financing and upgrading its agriculture-related infrastructure.

Much more could be done, says Kondoro while unveiling plans to establish 10 community information centres. India has given a supercomputer to Tanzania, that is now used for cutting-edge high-end research and training.

The IT centre was set up by Indian software engineers at a cost of a little over $2 million in August last year. It is also used by Tanzanians for tele-medicine and providing long-distance medical consultancy from top Indian specialists sitting thousands of kilometres away. India has set up a similar IT centre in Ghana. Tanzania is home to around 40,000 persons of Indian origin.

John W.A. Kondoro (Inset), Principal of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, which houses the India-Tanzania Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology (Right).

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PAN-AFRICAN e-NETWORK: A MODEL OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Former President of India

PAN-AFRICAN E-NETWORK: A MODEL OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Pan-African e-Network proposal is in line with the missions and objectives of the African Union and holds enormous potential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals through the use of innovative information and communication technology

(Top) Students at a cyber cafe in Libreville, Gabon.

During 2003-04, I visited African countries such as Sudan, Tanzania and South Africa. I addressed the Pan-African Parliament on September 16, 2004 in Johannesburg which was attended by representatives of the countries of the African Union. Based on my study of the communication, health care and education needs of our friendly African countries, I proposed the concept of a Pan-African e-Network on behalf of India for providing seamless and integrated satellite, fibre optics and wireless network connecting African nations.

The Pan-African e-Network project is estimated to cost around $125 million. As part of the project 12 universities (7 from India and 5 from Africa), 17 Super Speciality Hospitals (12 from India and 5 from Africa), 53 tele-medicine centres and 53 tele-education centres in Africa will be electronically connected.

The e-Network is primarily providing tele-education, tele-medicine, internet, videoconferencing and VOIP services. It is capable of supporting e-governance, e-commerce, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological services. Each remote location is able to access the internet through the network by linking the hub to internet backbone.

Using this network, Heads of State in all African countries will have the provision for instant communication. The network is designed to have 169 terminals and a central hub to deliver tele-education and tele-medicine services. It uses state-of-the-art technology and can be integrated with the latest broadband technologies like Wi-Fi and Wi-Max. It is scalable to support different applications catering to increased number of users.

The network, is, therefore, an enabler which has a cascading effect on the socio-economic development of many nations and societies. Enterprises and institutions of tomorrow should look at the avenues of bringing about value

(Top) Students being taught via video-conferencing through the Pan-African e-network in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(Right) A classroom at the India-Tanzania Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology in Dar es Salaam.

Tele-Education

PAN-AFRICAN E-NETWORK: A MODEL OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

More than 2,000 students from Africa have been enrolled in five different top-ranking universities in India for various disciplines like MBA, Master's in Finance Control, PG Diploma in IT, M.Sc. in IT, Bachelor's in Finance & Investment Analysis and many others

(Top) Pranab Mukherjee, then External Affairs Minister of India, speaking at the launch of the first phase of the Pan-African e-Network Project in New Delhi in February 2009.

(Left) A specialist at Fortis Hospital in Noida, located on the outskirts of Delhi, advising a doctor in Senegal on a neurosurgery case.

Regular tele-medicine and tele-education services have already been started on Pan-African e-Network. At present, tele-medicine consultations are being conducted regularly from super-speciality hospitals in India to African countries

(Top) The Indira Gandhi National Open University is one of the centres for providing tele-education to students in Africa.

(Right) Schoolchildren get computer lessons in Bungoma, Kenya.

addition in such enablers which change the environment and rate at which development takes place.

Role of Diplomacy

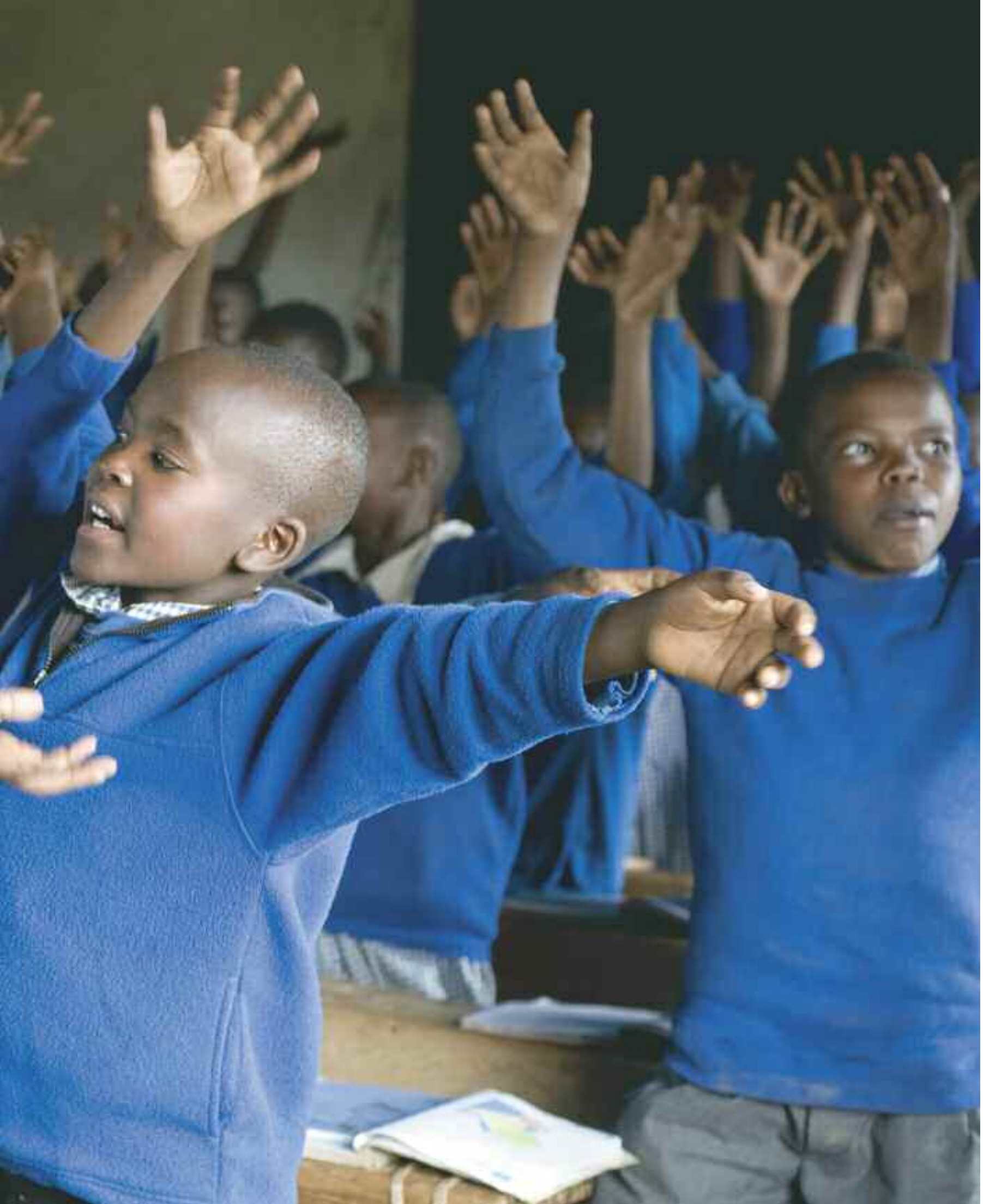
I would like to narrate the sequence of events which took place before the signing of the MoU between India and the African Union (AU) for the implementation of the Pan-African e-Network project. The partnership between India and the African Union has helped evolve a new model of the international social responsibility. As soon as the project was announced, a technical committee was appointed by the Indian Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to generate the project report. The project report was prepared in 16 weeks, coordinated by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), with technical experts drawn from President's Office, Department of Space and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) in 2005.

The External Affairs Ministry had also interacted with the AU and member countries in this period. After a review by the PMO, the ministry organised presentation of the project report by a high-level team to the AU chairman and members. The AU also constituted a Technical Review Committee consisting of members drawn from the AU and international organisations. After the series of technical discussions and review, the final presentation was made by the Indian team to the technical review committee which observed that this proposal was in line with the missions and objectives of the AU and held enormous potential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through the use of innovative ICT. The partnership between India and the African Union has helped evolve a new model of the international social responsibility.

Meanwhile, a presentation was made at the President's Office to 28 ambassadors of African countries stationed in Delhi. They also visited the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and familiarised themselves with the operational tele-medicine facilities. I could witness the active contribution of MEA team members, Director (Technology Interface) at the President's Office, and the Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia in coordinating various activities connected with the project in a mission mode by comprehensively addressing the technical, programmatic, financial, contractual and international relationship angle. This enabled the signing of the MoU between India and the AU on October 27, 2005.

The first phase of the project, covering 11 countries, was inaugurated in February 2009 by the then External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee. The second phase, which brought in another 12 African countries in the ambit of the project, was launched in August, 2010. So far, 47 African countries have joined the project, out of which implementation is completed in 34 countries and the remaining would be progressively completed towards the end of 2011.

Regular tele-medicine and tele-education services have already been started on this network. At present, tele-medicine consultations are regularly being conducted from super-speciality



Our efforts aim at sharing the knowledge gained among friendly nations, so that India, with its mission of a knowledge society, holds the hands of other developing nations to achieve sustainable development across the world

(Left) Schoolchildren in a classroom, offering traditional Kikuyu welcome by waving hands as if offering flowers, at Karunga Primary School, Rift Valley, Kenya.

In order to make the e-network reach the target audience in Africa more effectively, India and Africa have to assess its current usage pattern and get regular feedback from the users

(Top) The hub of the Pan-African e-Network in Addis Ababa that houses tele-medicine and tele-education facilities.

(Right) Former Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addresses a joint sitting of Parliament in Cape Town, in 2004, in the presence of the then President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki.

hospitals from India to African countries on a need basis. Moreover, regular Continued Medical Education (CME) sessions have been started with effect from April 22, 2009 from 11 Indian super-speciality hospitals. So far, 1,500 CME sessions have been conducted on this network.

For tele-education services from India, more than 2,000 students from Africa have been enrolled in five different top ranking universities in India in various disciplines like MBA, Master in Finance Control, PG Diploma in IT, M.Sc. in IT and Bachelor in Finance & Investment Analysis and many others. Regular tele-education live sessions are being conducted from India; and African students have shown great interest in the courses.

What Next?

In order to make this service reach the target audience in Africa more effectively, India and Africa have to assess the current usage pattern and get regular feedback from the users and reorganise the scheduled sessions on appropriate timings. We have to ensure that the services reach the target audience by matching the Indian-African time zones.

India needs to work out a plan of incentivisation to expand the audience for CME sessions, and knowledge sharing and dissemination effectively y understanding the needs of African doctors and medical staff. The project's implementation has to be accelerated so that the intended benefits reach Africa on time and contribute effectively for fulfilling the objectives to meet the MDGs. It is essential for India and Africa to ensure that the creative leadership is in control from implementation to end-user levels.

India may endeavour to extend this international social responsibility to all developing nations in a mission mode based on this Pan-African e-Network so that knowledge shared is knowledge multiplied.

Our efforts aim at sharing the knowledge gained among the friendly nations, so that India, with its mission of a knowledge society, holds the hands of other developing nations together to achieve sustainable development across the world. This, in turn, will ensure inclusive growth, remove the socio-economic imbalance in society, and help achieve a happy, prosperous, secure and peaceful global society.

CONNECTING INDIA AND AFRICA

They were sitting thousands of kilometres across the Indian Ocean, but the sense of camaraderie and kinship was more than evident. From talking about Ugandan students in India to thanking African nations for the hospitality extended to Indian ships, India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna sat in a studio in New Delhi surrounded by officials and African diplomats as he spoke to ministers in 12 African countries, from Egypt in the north to Botswana in the south, through a video-conference.

In those two hours on the afternoon of August 16, 2010, one could feel in that long-distance conversation the spirit that brings India and Africa together in their quest for mutual resurgence and empowerment. Krishna spoke to each of the African ministers separately, wishing them good health and promising to give more power to bilateral ties as he launched the second phase of the Pan-African e-Network, India's showpiece project that seeks to bridge the digital divide across African countries and bring tele-medicine and tele-education to the African people.

The second phase has brought 12 more African countries within the compass of this ambitious project. The first phase of the project, covering 11 countries, was inaugurated Feb 26, 2009.

"The Pan-African e-Network project is one of the finest examples of the growing partnership between India and Africa," Krishna said after the launch.

The enthusiasm was reciprocal. Sitting in Gaborone, Botswana's Minister of Education and Skills Development Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi said that her country was looking towards more collaboration with India, a "centre of excellence", especially in information technology. Krishna made it a point to thank Djibouti for providing its facilities for Indian naval ships, which regularly visit the strategically placed port on the Horn of Africa. The interaction brought alive the multi-faceted India-Africa partnership revolving around the trinity of trade, training and technology.

The e-network is already transforming lives of thousands of ordinary Africans. Blending technology with social transformation, the project shows the creative possibilities of using ICT to catalyse lasting socio-economic changes. More than 1,700 African students have already registered with Indian universities. Regular tele-medical consultations have also started between African doctors and Indian specialists. Over 1,500 CME lectures have been delivered by Indian doctors from top Indian super speciality hospitals. Buoyed by the enthusiastic African response, India has even offered training at the regional level by conducting workshops in the tele-medicine and tele-education modules for optimising benefits of the project.

In a growing recognition of India's development-centric diplomacy in Africa, the project won the prestigious Hermes Prize for innovation in the field of sustainable development. The prize was announced by the European Institute of Creative Strategies and Innovation, a think tank that promotes strategies for innovation and renewal in Europe and worldwide, at a meeting in Paris in May, 2010.

(Manish Chand)

- **Countries which joined Pan-African e-Network in Phase 1 on February 26, 2009**
  Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles

- **Countries which joined Pan-African e-Network in Phase 2 on August 16, 2010**
  Botswana, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia Uganda, Zambia

Participating Indian Institutions in the e-Network

UNIVERSITIES/ EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

- Amity University, Noida
- Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani
- Delhi University, New Delhi
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi
- University of Madras, Chennai

SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITALS

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi
- Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Kochi
- Apollo Hospitals, Chennai
- CARE Hospital, The Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad
- Dr. Balabhai Nanavati Hospital, Mumbai
- Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre Limited, New Delhi
- Fortis Hospital, Noida
- HealthCare Global, Bengaluru
- Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital, New Delhi
- Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Medical Sciences, Bengaluru
- Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Science(Lucknow), Lucknow
- Sri. Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute, Chennai

Leading Regional Institutions from Africa

UNIVERSITIES/EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

- Central Region: Yaounde University, Yaounde, Cameroon
- Eastern Region: Makerere University, Uganda
- Western Region: Kwame Nkurumah University of Science & Technology, Ghana

SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITALS

- Central Region: Brazzaville Super Speciality Hospital, Republic of Congo
- Eastern Region: Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital, Port Louis, Mauritius
- Western Region: University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, Nigeria

India may endeavour to extend international social responsibility to all developing nations in a mission mode based on this Pan-African e-Network so that knowledge shared is knowledge multiplied

(Top) Tele-education in progress at a centre linked to the Pan-African e-Network in Dar es Salaam.

(Top left) India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna interacting with ministers from various African countries via video conferencing at the launch of the second phase of the Pan-African e-Network on August 16, 2010 in New Delhi.

(Left) Faculty of the Amity University, India, imparting tele-education to students in Malawi using the e-Network.

APTECH

SKILL DEVELOPMENT: THE ITEC WAY

Manish Chand

Senior Editor, IANS, and Editor, Africa Quarterly

Transformation is the guiding mantra of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme that hinges on capacity-building and skills transfer to hundreds of thousands of students, professionals and mid-career diplomats in over 150 countries

(Top) Students of the Bachelor's programme in Sign Language at the Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi.

(Right) Barely-literate grandmothers from remote villages of Africa train as amateur solar engineers at the Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT: THE ITEC WAY

It is an act of faith, a journey into the heart of India's home-grown enterprise, dovetailing inspired diplomacy, innovation and rural uplift.

In 2005, 34 women from far-flung villages in Ethiopia gathered at the Barefoot College in Tilonia, a small town near Ajmer in the desert state of Rajasthan. Many of them had barely ventured out of their villages earlier, but they flew thousands of miles to India. Their mission: to become amateur solar engineers. Six months later, when they returned to their villages, they brought with them a solar lantern to light up every hut.

Three years later, the project, initially sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was adopted by the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme in 2008.

Transformation is, indeed, the guiding mantra of the ITEC that hinges on capacity building and skills transfer to hundreds of thousands of students, professionals, and mid-career diplomats in 160 countries across continents, including Africa, Asia, Latin America and East and Central Europe. The success of the solar engineering training would ensure that it will become a regular feature of the ITEC. Over the next three years, more than 150 women would train to spread the light in their homelands, as it were. They were from different African countries, ranging from Sudan in the north to Namibia in the south and from Senegal in the west to Tanzania in the east.

The solar engineering plan is just one of the innovative ways in which the ITEC, launched on September 15, 1964, is not only imparting skills, but is also acting as a catalyst for enduring socio-economic transformation in the developing countries.

An expression of India's unstinting commitment to South-South cooperation, the ITEC programme has disseminated

An expression of India's unstinting commitment to South-South cooperation, the ITEC programme has disseminated expertise and shared India's developmental experience with countries of the developing south

(Top) Students at the Aptech Institute for Computer Education in Mumbai, India.

(Right) A solar-powered mobile Internet cafe in the village of Embakasi, located some 25 km from Nairobi.

expertise and shared India's developmental experience with countries of the developing south. Started as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Indian Government, the ITEC, including its corollary SCAAP (Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme), has expanded to include some 220-odd courses ranging from IT, textile designing, foreign affairs to commerce, science and media. Students who are selected for ITEC courses — most of these courses last from two to six weeks — are sent to 48 institutions empanelled by India's Ministry of External Affairs.

The ITEC has six components: training (civilian and defence) in India of nominees of ITEC partner countries; projects and project-related activities such as feasibility studies and consultancy services; deputation of Indian experts abroad; study tours; gifting/donation of equipment at the request of ITEC partner countries; and aid for disaster relief.

On an average, India spends about Rs.500 million ($10.8 million) on varied ITEC activities. Since 1964, India has provided nearly $2.5 billion worth of technical assistance to developing countries, including neighbouring countries. Over the years, India has spent around $1 billion over ITEC-related activities involving African countries.

Although the ITEC encompasses the entire global South, Africa looms large in the widening canvas of the programme. "Africa is a very special continent of focus, where ITEC courses have acquired great popularity," India's Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao told ITEC alumni at a gala party that is organised every year in the Indian capital to celebrate ITEC Day. "They have come to be seen as valued instruments for vocation training, upgradation of skills, capacity building and empowerment," she said.

Against the backdrop of the burgeoning popularity of the ITEC programme in African countries, India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced an additional 500 slots for African students at the maiden India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008. "We will enhance opportunities for African students to pursue higher studies in India. As an immediate measure we propose to double our long-term scholarships for undergraduates, postgraduates and higher courses and increase the number of training slots under our technical assistance programmes from 1,100 to 1,600 every year," he said in the presence of African leaders.

In his speech outlining his vision of a vibrant partnership between a resurgent Africa and a rising India, Manmohan Singh encapsulated the ethos of the ITEC programme. "Both India and Africa are blessed with young populations. It is only by investing in the creative energies of our youth that the potential of our partnership will be fulfilled," he said.

Besides empowering them with life-sustaining skills, the ITEC programme also gives students from different countries a taste of the multicultural and pluralistic ethos of India. "Networking and bonding is incredible among students. Many of them have tears in their eyes when the course ends and most of them retain their bonds forged

Many of the students who attended ITEC programme have risen to top positions in their respective fields, even gone on to become ministers. In Botswana, many officers in the defence establishment have been trained under this programme. In Zanzibar and Tanzania, over 24 percent senior government officials have gone through the ITEC experience

(Top) African students at Humayun's Tomb, New Delhi.

(Right) ITEC's extended family in Maputo, Mozambique.

during this short programme," recalls Primrose Sharma, who handled ITEC in India's foreign office a few years ago. The ITEC has also become a powerful instrument of projecting India's soft power and its cultural diplomacy as most of these students retain a life-long association with India long after their brief stay in the country. The extended fraternity, as an ITEC alumnus said, carry a bit of India in their hearts wherever they go.

Many of the students, who attended ITEC courses, have risen to top positions in their respective fields, and some have gone on to become ministers. In Botswana, many officers in the defence establishment have been trained under this programme. In Tanzania, over 24 percent senior government officials have been through the ITEC experience.

"The course opened up participants to new ideas; we learnt to look at our markets differently," wrote two Ugandan nominees from the Bank of Africa Uganda Ltd., who attended the Senior Management Development Programme for SMEs conducted jointly by Administrative Staff College of India and NIMSME (National Institute for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises), in their report to the Ministry of External Affairs.

"Although most of the concepts were not entirely new, the sharing of experiences from different parts of the developing world was uniquely enriching. The case studies and field visits provided a unique learning experience in a practical environment," they wrote.

While ITEC is essentially bilateral in its outreach, its resources have been occasionally used for financing trilateral and regional programmes managed by the Economic Commission for Africa, UNIDO and the Group of 77. Today, the ITEC's activities have expanded to include training and project support to the African Union, Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation, the Pan-African Parliament and the G-15.

Project assistance such as training accounts for 40 percent of the annual ITEC budget. Some of the key projects executed under the ITEC programme in Africa include the computerisation of the office of the Prime Minister of Senegal and assistance in the transformation of the educational system of South Africa. Agriculture remains a major focus of ITEC's project assistance. The programme has provided Ghana, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali equipment and expertise for enhancing agricultural productivity, and generated enormous goodwill for India among African countries. Vocational training in small-scale industry and entrepreneurship development are important areas of cooperation with Senegal and Zimbabwe. Such training enables young people to get jobs at comparatively low levels of capital intensity.

It is not just students from foreign countries that have benefited from ITEC programme. Several Indian public sector undertakings have also acquired a distinctive brand identity in developing countries, especially in Africa.

The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Hindustan Machine

SKILL DEVELOPMENT: THE ITEC WAY

The ITEC spirit has touched a chord in Africa. “You really need some good friends who can capacitate you. India to us is such a friend. There is enormous scope for cooperation in ICT. We greatly value India’s expertise in capacity building,” says Tanzania’s Prime Minister Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda

(Top) ITEC trainees visiting one of the mills at the South India Textile Research Association, Chennai, the capital of India’s southern state of Tamil Nadu.

(Left) ITEC trainees with R.K. Pachauri, Chancellor of TERI University, Delhi.

Tools International Ltd. HMT (I), Water and Power Consultancy Services Ltd. (WAPCOS) and Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) have capitalised on their ITEC association, and are now bidding for development projects in these countries on their own.

With India emerging as a global power, its knowledge economy that is epitomised in the ITEC programme shines forth as an example of the country’s ethos of creating a more equitable and balanced world, based on a transfer of technology and skills among fellow developing countries of the south.

The ITEC spirit has touched a chord in African countries. “You really need some good friends who can capacitate you. India to us is such a friend. There is enormous scope for cooperation in ICT. We greatly value India’s expertise in capacity building,” says Tanzania’s Prime Minister Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda.

“India is very advanced in areas of education and science and technology. India’s developmental experience is very relevant for the African continent,” says Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, a former Prime Minister of Tanzania and a former Ambassador of Tanzania to India in the 1960s. In a similar vein, Togo’s Prime Minister Gilbert Fossoun Houngbo, a former UN official, sees India as “the world’s most populous democracy and a leader in frontier areas of knowledge.”

Houngbo rightly sees training and human resource development as the heart of Africa’s engagement with India. “What is very interesting and appealing is the Indian model of cooperation. India is a developing country but has achieved much. Africa can, therefore, learn from the trajectory of development in India and the Indian experience,” he told *Africa Quarterly*, an India-based journal that focuses on African affairs.

Above all, the ITEC programme exemplifies India’s unflinching commitment to South-South cooperation and forms an integral part of its broader diplomatic thrust to partner the people-rich African continent in its ongoing resurgence. “The 21st century is often described as the Asian century. India wishes to see the 21st century as the Century of Asia and Africa, with the people of the two continents working together to promote inclusive globalisation,” said Manmohan Singh at the India-Africa summit in 2008.

CONTINENT OF THE FUTURE

Ratan Tata

Chairman,
Tata Sons

Sunil Bharti Mittal

Chairman & Managing Director,
Bharti Airtel

Sanjay Kirloskar

Chairman & Managing Director,
Kirloskar Brothers

"Africa has a huge requirement of capital for its infrastructure development which cannot be met by foreign aid alone. We advocate to Indian companies a platform strategy for investment across Africa, rather than project-based investments for a single country. This helps in diversification, increases the scope of the project and makes financing easier"

ANDREW ALLI
President and Chief Executive,
African Finance Corporation

(Top) A Tata bus ferries passengers in Khartoum, Sudan.

(Right) Over 200 projects worth $18 billion were discussed at the 7th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in New Delhi, in March 2011.

THE AFRICAN DECADE

Ratan Tata

The Indian growth story that has caught the world's imagination is increasingly being complemented by the new dynamism emanating from Africa. It is particularly heart-warming for those of us who harbour a special fondness for Africa that it is now being seen as the next continent of opportunity.

India has long played a key role in Africa's development and it is only befitting that a renewed effort is being directed by the Indian government and by Indian industry towards strengthening the many bilateral and multilateral partnerships that exist between India and African states. The Second India-Africa Forum Summit, being held in Addis Ababa in May this year, is expected to serve as a point of convergence for the myriad cooperation endeavours that underpin the India-Africa relationship.

The momentum of growth in Africa has picked up with the adoption of reformist economic policies in many countries, aided by more stable political regimes and an increasing stress on good governance. It is instructive that five African economies — Ghana, Liberia, Angola, Ethiopia and Mozambique — are expected to be among the fastest-growing in the world in the ongoing year.

Traditionally, Indian corporate presence in Africa has largely been seen in the extractive industries and in the physical infrastructure sectors. While these areas continue to retain their importance, Indian companies have lately forayed into a whole gamut of new and emerging business sectors in Africa, like telecom. The $10.7 billion Bharti Airtel acquisition

of Zain Africa is a case in point. Indian companies are also investing heavily in Africa's key sectors like oil and gas, automobile, engineering, chemicals, banking, IT and ITES, drugs and pharmaceuticals, agriculture and agro-processing, healthcare, education and services.

Importantly, Indian corporate activity also has a strong developmental footprint in the realms of capacity building, skills development, technology and knowledge transfer, local employment generation and environment protection. The best example of this kind of collaboration is the Pan-Africa e-Network Project (PAN) which is revolutionising Africa's tele-medicine and tele-education services and is equipped to support e-governance, e-commerce, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological and other services in African countries. Such contributions by Indian industry have been widely acknowledged by Africa's host governments, business leaders and civic bodies.

At the same time, the Indian Government's concessional lines of credit (LOC) and developmental assistance have contributed in a major way toward asset creation in several African states.

The challenge ahead is to realise the full potential of the extant business opportunities so as to maximise trade and investment flows between India and Africa. I am confident that the immense goodwill that exists between our populations will take our economic relations to a new and higher plane, to the mutual benefit of the over 2 billion people of Africa and India.

"By virtue of its sheer size, Africa has a lot of resources. African nations are now among the fastest-growing in the world. With many countries in the African continent developing long-term vision to lift themselves from the least developed countries group, it is clear that the growth wave of the 21st century is going to come from Africa. I invite Indian businesses to take part in this growth story and also share their experiences with us"

PROF. EPHRAIM KAMUNTU
Minister of Finance Planning
and Economic Development, Uganda

(Right) An Airtel hoarding in Swahili in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

THE COMING OF A NEW DAWN

Sunil Bharti Mittal

The India-Africa Partnership is at the cusp of a renaissance. Historic ties, both economic and cultural, are being re-established, influenced by the changing global economic order as well as the recent growth experiences of both economies. Over the next few years, India is slated to become the third-largest economy in the world. Although largely driven by domestic demand, the sustainability of India's growth story will depend, to a great extent, on the performance of the external sector. In the case of Africa, the average economy is expected to outpace its Asian counterpart over the next five years. Looking even farther ahead, Standard Chartered forecasts that Africa's economy will grow at an average annual rate of 7% over the next 20 years, slightly faster than China's. The realisation of this growth will rest on the ability of the domestic sector to move up the global value chain.

Culturally, too, the ties between India and Africa are wide, deep and intertwined. The late 19th century witnessed the first wave of substantial Indian emigration to East and South Africa, especially from Gujarat and Punjab. Today, this diaspora is considered an intrinsic part of the local community and stands out for the commercial backbone it provides in its host countries. India, too, has benefited by the social moulding that Africa has provided. Indeed, India would not be the country it is today had it not been for the formative impact that South Africa had on a young Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. That experience spurred a life of social activism, resulting in the creation of India as an independent country and his anointment as the Father of the (Indian) Nation.

What is unique and noteworthy is that the India-Africa relationship has been marked by mutual respect and sensitivity to shared compulsions and developmental needs. In the political sphere as well as the global arena, India and Africa have often stood together. Both have, invariably, spoken in one voice on issues such as dismantling of apartheid (on which my late father led a major global parliamentarian movement), non-alignment and free and fair trade, even when it was not considered fashionable to do so.

That enhanced economic, political, social and cultural cooperation between India and Africa has promise and potential is self-evident. The manner with which this will be achieved will define the hue of the new dawn.

Resurgent Africa

Over the last 10 years, Africa has had among the highest bloc growth rates in the world, averaging around 6 percent growth per year. In comparison, the EU has been around 3 percent, Asia, without Japan, at 5 percent and South America at around 3 percent. Even during the global economic downturn, as a bloc, Africa was estimated to grow at 4.8 percent compared to 0.1 percent in Europe and -0.1 percent in North America.

Furthermore, according to *The Economist*, over the 10 years to 2010, six of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies were in sub-Saharan Africa. These were Angola, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Chad, Mozambique and Rwanda — all with annual growth rates of around 8 percent or more. To put it in perspective, in the two decades running up to 2000, Uganda was the only African country to make it to the top 10. Over the next five years, Africa is forecast to garner seven of the top 10 places.

The continent has clearly exhibited its resilience and that it has the ingredients essential for growth. However, these ingredients, though necessary, will not be sufficient. Growth will need to be blended with good governance initiatives to sustain Africa's prosperity. Initiatives such as the three-year old 'Ibrahim Index of African Governance' are creative, compelling and catalytic in their power to introduce positive transformation.

This mix of growth and good governance has already become manifest in growing investor interest in Africa, further strengthened by improved sovereign ratings for several African economies. Significantly, these are at par with the ratings of some OECD economies. Not surprisingly, many predict the decade 2010-2020 to be 'Africa's decade'.

The Indian Footprint

Africa is deeply ingrained in the Indian psyche, shaped by a common international understanding, economic exchanges and cultural contiguity. India, unlike many other developed and emerging economies, has approached Africa in a very functional and collaborative manner. Over the years, the Indian government and industry have been closely engaged with Africa's development process. Leading Indian engineering and consulting firms have played a major part in Africa's physical infrastructure development. In fact, Indian construction companies have made significant

“The African continent holds a lot of potential across sectors — tourism, agriculture, minerals and oil. We have huge land resources but only a small portion of it is under agricultural activities. Then there are opportunities in infrastructure development which Indian companies can exploit. We are putting in place various facilities and reforming our legal and other procedures to facilitate a smooth entry for businesses. We urge Indian companies to come and share their experiences so that we, too, can learn and benefit from them”

JOSE ANTONIO DA CRUZ ALMEIDA
Minister of Infrastructure and Communications,
Guinea Bissau

(Top) Delegates at the CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in New Delhi, in March 2011.

(Right) An oil rig in the Niger Delta, Nigeria.

(Inset) A pump factory, owned by Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. in Gauteng, South Africa.

investments in Africa to build roads, rail lines and ports in several African countries.

Traditionally, Indian investments in Africa have been small to medium in scale. Being driven by bigger companies, the recent wave of Indian investments into the continent has gained in size. More importantly, most of these have been significant investments in sectors other than extraction which, historically, has happened to be the primary focus of foreign investment in Africa. Indian companies have invested in key sectors like automobile, engineering, chemicals, banking, IT and ITES, telecom, drugs and pharmaceuticals, healthcare, education and services. Investments from auto majors like Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra, pharmaceutical majors like Ranbaxy, Cipla and Dr. Reddy’s and consumer firms like Marico, Emami and Godrej have made a significant impact on the economies.
In the IT space, India’s two largest players have, of late, started increasing their investments in Africa.

Bharti Airtel’s acquisition of 15 telecom operations in sub-Saharan Africa for $10.7 billion last year opened a new chapter in the history of the India-Africa relationship. We see this investment as having two principal objectives — to create value and to transform lives. While these are early days, the signs are already promising. A few months ago, IBM committed to join hands with us and walk this unchartered road together. I am convinced that it will be partnerships such as these that will create the transformation that Africa desires.

Indian oil companies are also geared to acquire oil and gas assets in Africa as also invest in downstream industry. The continent has proven oil reserves of about 16 billion metric tons and gas reserves of about 500 trillion cubic feet. This emerging partnership is aimed to be mutually beneficial as it will allow India to enhance its energy security while African countries would benefit from better investments, institutions, technology, environmental sustainability, local content development, human resources development and employment generation.

Notably, Indian public sector companies such as RITES and WAPCOS have executed some of the most challenging infrastructure projects in Africa. The $125 million Pan-African e-Network (PAN) project best represents Indian Government’s collaborative efforts in Africa. The PAN project is revolutionising Africa’s tele-medicine and tele-education services and is equipped to support e-governance, e-commerce, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological and other services in the African countries. The project has already entered the second leg of its development.

A noteworthy aspect of Indian corporate engagement in Africa is that most of these business groups have stated policies of long-term commitment to a sustainable partnership in the region. Many of them have backed this commitment by deed and have initiated their corporate social responsibility programmes to signal such intent. In the last half a decade, companies such as Jain Irrigation and Kirloskar Brothers have gone beyond their basic business of commissioning agriculture projects toward establishing better water management systems for the benefit of millions of people. My own group’s philanthropic arm, the

"In recent years, we have seen a dramatic escalation in the participation of major Indian companies in South Africa with investment stock from India amounting to more than $2.5 billion and resulting in the creation of over 5,900 jobs. Similarly, South African investment into India has also been growing steadily, with investment stock amounting to $265 million, which has resulted in the creation of 3,700 jobs"

ELIZABETH THABETHE
Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry,
South Africa

Bharti Foundation, has already adopted 18 schools in different countries where Bharti Airtel is present as a mark of its commitment to the people of Africa.

The growing Indian corporate presence in Africa is complemented by a definitive expansion of the India-Africa bilateral trade flows. India's total trade with African countries rose from $961 million in 1991 to $24.98 billion in 2006-07 and then to $34.66 billion in 2007-08, $39.54 billion in 2008-09 and $45 billion in 2009-10. It is hoped that the trade volumes will breach the $70 billion mark in two to three years. Notably, the trade balance has firmly shifted in favour of Africa, demonstrating the spirit of partnership with which India has approached the continent, especially in the Sub-Saharan region.

India's engagement with Africa is not limited to pockets of affluence, concentration of natural resources or cultural contiguity and familiarity of language. It is an extremely broad-based partnership with a clear potential to usher in a transformational impact on individual African economies. Agreements like the South African Customs Union (SACU)-India Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) when concluded will provide further impetus to these trade ties.

Growth and Development

The bilateral trade and investment ties have been greatly supported by the Indian Government's concessional lines of credit and developmental assistance which contributed to asset creation in Africa and have acted as catalytic confidence boosters. At the 1st India-Africa Forum Summit, which took place in New Delhi in 2008, and where I had the privilege of actively participating being the industry co-host as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Government of India increased the credit lines to Africa from $2.15 billion to $5.4 billion up until 2012. Since the development of human resource is expected to play a critical role in Africa's future growth, India is intent on collaborating with different African Governments to set up institutions to promote research and training. These institutions are aimed at creating an enabling environment for promoting Human Excellence. India has committed to establish the India Africa Institute of Foreign Trade in Uganda, the India-Africa Institute of Information Technology in Ghana, the India Africa Diamond Institute in Botswana, and the India-Africa Institute of Education, Planning and Administration in Burundi.

The India-Africa partnership is clearly underpinned by strong political understanding and deep, symbiotic economic engagement. In the last decade, China stepped up its engagement with Africa manifold, focusing primarily in securing minerals, metals and oil. This intervention has acted as a wake-up call for the Indian government and industry to step up its engagement with Africa. Along the way, the partnership has created an indelible impression on the global economic order. Cited as the beacon of South-South Cooperation, the India-Africa partnership has the potential to strengthen the global governance systems and democratise multilateral institutions. Making this possible will be robust people-to-people contact between the 1.2 billion in India and 1.03 billion in Africa. The relationship is clearly poised to move to the next level during the coming decade.

(Top) A factory set up by Ranbaxy, an Indian pharmaceutical company, in Johannesburg.

(Above) The Bank of India (Tanzania) Ltd. in Dar es Salaam.

(Left) A winery at Stellenbosch, valley of Cape Winelands, one of the main wine-growing regions in South Africa. South African wines are being exported to India.

"India is a natural partner to Africa. Both of us share a similar history and face similar challenges. The growth that India has achieved in the past few years is tremendous. It can lend its expertise in the development of trade to Africa. We face challenges in the education and health sectors that the Indian government — and even private companies — can help address. India and Africa are strategic partners. India's superior technological skills could also be very useful for capacity-building in Africa"

DR. ABDIWELI MOHAMED ALI
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
of Planning and International Cooperation, Somalia

(Top) Nigerian Stock Exchange in Lagos.

(Right) Containers at the port of Algiers.

NEW DYNAMISM IN BUSINESS TIES

Sanjay Kirloskar

The new dynamism in India-Africa Relations, exemplified by South-South cooperation and supported by the sharing of appropriate knowledge and technologies, is set to alter global trade and investment flows. This dynamism was reflected in the year 2010, the undeclared year of Africa in India, when the country played host to at least eight high-level dignitaries from Seychelles, Ghana, South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Kenya, Malawi and Ethiopia. The high profile visits throughout the year demonstrated that both India and Africa are keen to expand political and developmental cooperation.

The relationship between India and Africa has been pushed forward by a vibrant and proactive India Inc. The increasing footprint of Indian Industry can be seen and felt across the continent. Investment in Africa by India's private sector companies is growing and is being further facilitated by strategic alliances and joint ventures, open markets, foreign investment-friendly policies, access to regional and global markets, availability of natural resources and relative political stability.

India has been at the forefront of developments in the area of ICT application, cluster development for SME growth, agriculture revolution and so many others. India has become the "software destination" of the world and its indigenous technologies have seen the evolution of an import-oriented economy in terms of food grains to a grain-exporting economy.

The growth of India with its 'AAA' or Appropriate, Adaptable and Affordable technologies has found resonance in the African economies. The growing ethos of

NISA
CMA CGM
IRISL
UASC

“The political, social and economic relations between India and Ghana go back many years. Africans gain from the transfer of technologies by India. The relationship is one of equal partners and not one where there is an assumption of superiority on the part of one. It’s not prescriptive. This is what makes it a more workable relationship.”

HANNAH TETTEH
Ghana’s Trade and Industry Minister

(Top) A Mahindra & Mahindra SUV at the annual Gauteng Motorshow in 2010.

(Right) The Konkola copper mines in Zambia, which are managed by Vedanta Resources plc, a leading mining company owned by Anil Agarwal, a non-resident Indian.

(Top far right) Eleni Z. Gabre-Madhin, CEO of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange.

(Below far right) Women workers at a factory in Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar.

“India is an inspiration in the way it has become a key global player. In Africa, there is a perception that you can start a business only if you have lots of money. But among Indians, they start with a small fund and family support and within a few years, they are in charge of companies with a hundred people. I want to encourage that kind of mindset”

VINCENT KAREGA
Rwanda’s Minister of Infrastructure

(Top) An Indian-made tractor on a farm in Uganda.

(Right) The World Trade Centre in Mumbai that houses the Exim Bank.

LoCs: CATALYSTS OF CHANGE

The Government of India extends concessional Lines of Credit (LoCs) to developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Aimed at spurring bilateral economic cooperation, these LoCs are a form of soft lending that enable the borrowing countries to undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity-building.

As many as 123 Lines of Credit worth $5.02 billion have been extended by the Government for projects to various developing countries so far. The maximum amount has been allocated to countries in Africa, including Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Tanzania.

Projects approved include a wide range of sectors such as IT, railways, agriculture, water supply, electricity generation and transmission, and industrial parks.

Another $5.4 billion was extended by the Government during the first India-Africa Forum Summit for capacity-building in African countries.

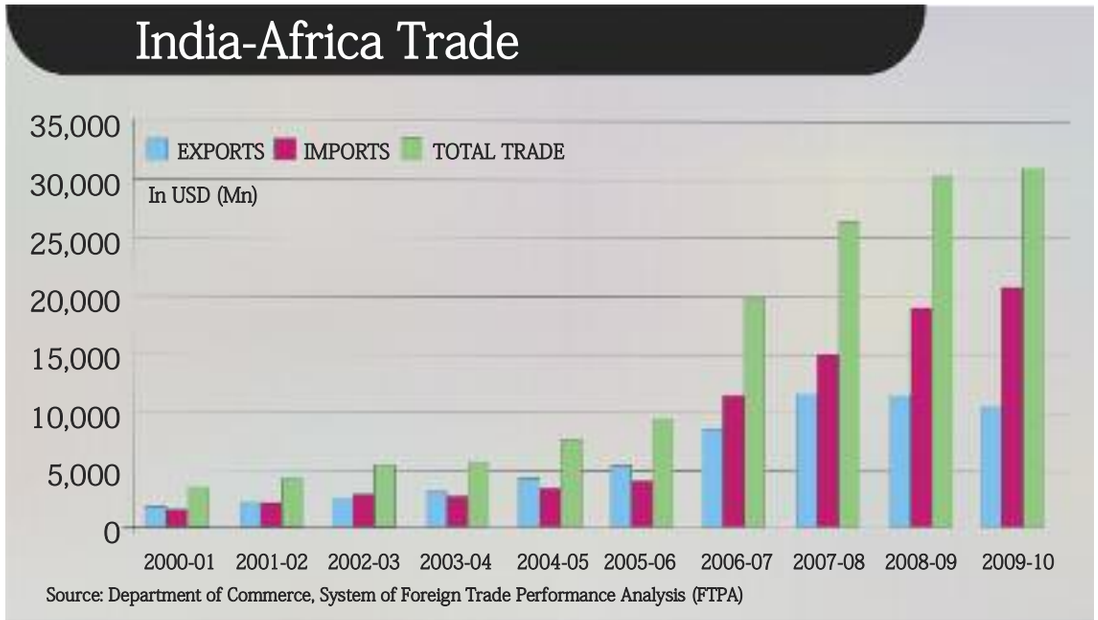
These LoCs have not only contributed to the socio-economic development of the recipient countries and generated enormous goodwill, but also helped project India’s growing economic strength in various sectors and enabled domestic companies to get project contracts and orders for supply of goods and services. These orders have also helped Indian companies generate additional business on a purely commercial basis.

(Source: Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of External Affairs, India)

Africa is growth continent of the future

Africa to our mind is the growth continent of the future. It has a population of roughly a billion people. Most African countries have reformed their economic policies so they are growing well. And I think Africa will sort of perform like China and India have done over the last few decades. So we are very bullish on the Africa story. We can take a lot of our technology to Africa. We specialise in high-technology products at low costs for low-income families, which suits Africa well

ADI GODREJ, an Indian industrialist, in an interview to *Forbes* magazine. Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. acquired Nigeria's personal care brand Tura in 2010.



the Indian private sector to localise production facilities in Africa has helped forge new partnerships. Indian business looks to find a strategic niche for itself as a key partner in each country's developmental priorities.

Developing this new business synergy has been the fulcrum of the work being done by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The annual CII Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, which debuted in 2005, has become the most definitive medium for Indian and African policymakers, corporate leaders and academics to converge for sharing knowledge and to network for collaborative businesses. We have achieved remarkable results from the last seven conclaves.

With the growing political closeness, Indian industry feels that it is time to collaborate in areas which could exemplify the growing South-South cooperation.

This is the dawn of the African century.

PARTNERING FOR FOOD SECURITY

Renu Modi

Senior Lecturer at the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai

Africa's population, which has just exceeded 1 billion, is growing by about 24 million per year, and will double by 2050. This rapid growth, coupled with diminishing food production, has raised concerns that need to be addressed urgently. At the maiden India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in 2008, agriculture was identified as a priority sector for bilateral collaboration

(Top) Cameroon's President Paul Biya driving the first tractor assembled at the production facility set up by Sonalika Tractors, an Indian company.

(Right) A woman smiles as she checks maize crops on a small-scale farm in Chinhamora, about 50 km north of Harare. Zimbabwe is largely an agriculture-based economy.

(Overleaf) A farm in South Africa.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation's Global Food Price Index soared to its highest-ever level in February 2011, in both real and nominal terms. This dramatic rise was driven mostly by higher prices of cereals, meat and dairy products.

In the African continent, the prices of coarse grains have been steadily on the rise. The world population, estimated at 6.8 billion in 2009, is projected to increase exponentially to about nine billion in 2050. Africa's population, which has just exceeded one billion, is growing by about 24 million per year, and will double by 2050. This rapid growth of population, coupled with diminishing food production, has raised concerns that need to be addressed urgently. At the maiden India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in 2008, agriculture was identified as a priority sector of collaboration between the two regions. With the population clock ticking away, the intertwined areas of food security and agriculture are set to be at the heart of future summits and the broader India-Africa partnership.

About 65 percent of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa lives in rural areas as does the bulk of the labour force. For example, in Tanzania, the agricultural sector provides livelihoods to more than 80 percent of the population and is the anchor of the economy. Farmers are engaged in predominantly small-holder subsistence production, marked by low output. Rudimentary production tools and agricultural technologies, vulnerability to drought conditions, declining soil fertility and climate change, poor access to inputs and capital have led to low productivity per acreage.

The continent is also subject to external shocks such as the debilitating global economic meltdown of 2008 and a surge in the price of staple foods such as cereals, meat and dairy products. For low income and highly import-dependent countries, particularly for those with

The agriculture sector can get an immense impetus through foreign direct investments based on partnership and mutual reciprocity and thus create “land as assets”. Indian investments can address the critical gaps in the basic support infrastructure such as rural electrification, roads, waterways, irrigation facilities, technological upgradation and capacity-building

(Top) A textile factory in Chad that runs on machinery provided by an Indian company.

(Right) Technicians inspecting plant species at a laboratory at Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

limited foreign exchange availability, the import of food at high costs is not a viable option. Any escalation in prices leads to the erosion of purchasing power, which in turn affects food security and nutrition levels, not to mention access to school and health services. The availability of food is, therefore, of urgent concern to the African continent.

According to the FAO, “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” The concept of food security came into public discourse soon after World War II and resulted in the establishment of a specialised UN agency, the FAO, which focused on the production of adequate amounts of food to deal with hunger. By the 1980s, Noble Laureate Amartya Sen, in his seminal work *Poverty and Famine: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation* (1981), pointed out that “starvation is the characteristic of some people not having enough food to eat. It is not the characteristic of there not being enough food to eat.” In other words, he emphasised the aspect of entitlement of individuals and households to food. As a result, the demand side aspect of food security entered the lexicon of policy planners at the local and national levels.

The continent of Africa, though beset by the problem of food insecurity, has great potential for agricultural transformation. Malawi’s President Bingu wa Mutharika, then Chairperson of the African Union (AU), pointed out at the official opening session of the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture (CAMA) on in October 2010 that although only 10 percent of the arable land is currently under cultivation in the continent, it has the potential to become the food basket of the world. The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), under the aegis of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), has identified the agriculture sector as an “engine of growth” and a potential “sustainable solution to hunger and poverty in Africa”.

According to FAO (2008), only 14 percent of Africa’s 184 million hectares of arable land is under cultivation and 21 million hectares are in a state of “accelerated degradation”. In order to realise the potential of its land, Africa has an option to look outward, forge partnerships and seek investments to overcome severe problems of under-capitalisation. The agriculture sector can get an immense impetus through foreign direct investment based on partnership and mutual reciprocity and thus help create “land as assets”. Indian investments can address the critical gaps in the basic support infrastructure such as rural electrification, roads and waterways, irrigation facilities, technological upgradation and capacity building. The Indian model of combining democracy with development inspires confidence and attracts several African countries.

At the 2008 India-Africa Forum Summit, the President of Tanzania and former chairperson of the AU, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, voiced Africa’s concern for food security and urged India to invest in capacity building in this crucial sector. “If we are able to increase productivity in

(Left) Irrigation sprinklers in operation at a vegetable farm in Philippi, Cape Town, South Africa. About 80 percent of the vegetables of Cape Town grow in this region.

(Top) Technicians from Jain Irrigation, an Indian company, working with Nigerian farmers at a borewell in a rice field in Lagos State of Nigeria. Rice is the staple diet of Nigeria.

(Top) A woman at the Indian-owned Karuturi Flower Farms inspecting roses at one of the greenhouses in Holleta, the largest rose farm in Ethiopia.

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to expand from 1.8 percent in 2009 to 4.9 percent in 2010. Among developing regions, Sub-Saharan Africa, with the third-fastest growth rates in the world after India and China, provides the right climate for attracting global investments

(Top) Ethiopian workers at the Karuturi Farms in Holleta give final touches to the roses before they are packed for export.

(Left) Tunisian farmers harvest a wheat field. Wheat and barley are among some of the chief crops of Tunisia.

African agriculture, Africa would not only be able to feed itself, but will have huge surpluses to sell to the world. India has the technology and the skills, which, if made available to Africa, will certainly help it implement the African Green Revolution," he said.

The countries of Africa are diverse and asymmetrical in terms of size, location and the benefits or limitations of their geographic positioning, infrastructure, political framework, development, growth rates, levels of income and human development index. Therefore, one cannot paint the vast continent with a single stroke. But the general trend is towards a greater degree of democratisation and an attempt at better economic governance in many countries. Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to increase from 1.8 percent in 2009 to 4.9 percent in 2010. Among developing regions, Sub-Saharan Africa's growth rates will be the third-fastest (i.e. after India and China) and ahead of Europe, Central Asia, Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East. It provides the right climate for attracting global investments, of which Indian companies are an essential part.

The Indian private sector is the main vehicle through which investments in agriculture are being made. Many business enterprises such as Jain Irrigation, Karuturi Global Ltd. (KGL), Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. (KBL), Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M), Ruchi Soya and Renuka Sugars have established their presence in several countries in agriculture and related sectors. In addition, several new players such as Yes Bank and McLeod Russel are making forays into the agriculture sector in the continent.

KBL provides pumping systems and solutions or what it calls `Triple A' technologies -- technologies that are adaptable, appropriate and affordable. This can help address the need for irrigation in several countries across Africa. The popularity of the KBL pump can be gauged by the fact that every pump in Egypt is called a Kirloskar! KBL's investment in Senegal is a success story that needs to be shared and replicated. The use of KBL water pumps has resulted in the enhancement of the total acreage under cultivation and Senegal can now meet 40 percent of its rice demand locally, as compared to 19 percent prior to the implementation of the project about five years ago. In 2008, Senegal had its first-ever dry season harvest, garnering 60,000 tonnes of paddy. The production numbers are impressive — from 100,000 tonnes in 2006 to its quadrupling in about two years. Till June in the 2009-10 season, the country produced 546,000 tonnes of rice, with a target to increase it to 750,000 tonnes by 2015. The West African country is now on its way from being a net importer of rice to a next exporter in the second decade of the 21st century.

Jain Irrigation, a leading provider of irrigation services and agricultural inputs, has attempted innovations in resource (water) conservation and in sharing the technology of drip irrigation in several countries in Africa. It offers ways of irrigating more land with less water (water saving); more yield with less water (food security) and more food production with less energy use (energy

A cotton farm in Mali.

security). The company is an end-to-end solution provider in agriculture — from production to processing. They have also forayed into sunshine areas of alternative energy and are working towards introducing solar energy-based innovative pumping and irrigation systems. Today, the company, which follows the maxim of "more crop per drop", has a presence in over 15 countries.

Karuturi Global, a company that ranks among the top 25 agro transnational companies of the world, has made hefty investments in the floriculture and agribusiness operations in Ethiopia, Kenya and India. KGL, the largest producer of cut roses in the world, aims to "harvest Africa's potential and thereby address global food security". The company aims to cultivate food crops; cereals (rice and maize), and fresh vegetables, in addition to cash crops for sale in Ethiopia and the COMESA region.

Indian companies are also involved in a host of CSR (corporate social responsibility) initiatives that enables them to reach out to the local populace and integrate with the local community. For instance, Karuturi has ensured the conservation of the environment through the use of indigenous greenhouses, in-house power generation from biomass, rainwater harvesting, environment-friendly fertilisers and chemicals.

The Indian Government has played a pivotal role in spurring Indian investments in agriculture and allied sectors through the EXIM Bank, a Government of India enterprise, which implements lines of credit (LOCs) to support investments globally. Of the 133 LOCs extended worldwide by India, 89 were allocated to 47 countries in Africa. The apex bank has played an important role in promoting food security through the facilitation of investments for the purchase of agricultural equipments from India such as tractors, harvesters, setting up of small- and medium-sized agro-processing plants, motor pumps, irrigation equipment, setting up of sugar industries and other agro-based SMEs across the continent.

Above all, India's policy of engagement with Africa is based on requests by African counterparts and is based on a complementarity of interests. In this context, it is important to stress that the Indian Government encourages private business initiatives in Africa only on the invitation of African Governments and staunchly maintains that the rules of the host country be respected. The main thrust of India's engagement consists of capacity building and human resource development. India has contributed to capacity building initiatives as well. It is providing 300 new scholarships especially in agricultural sciences through the African Union Commission to be implemented by the Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Seventy-five students (25 Doctoral and 50 Master's) will be enrolled each year for a period of four years. The ICAR will also provide two-to-four-week-long customised trainings in water conservation and utilisation; production of seed, sapling and planting material; livestock production; fisheries production; farm mechanisation; post-harvest processing and value-addition.

The India-Africa partnership, based on reciprocity, could become central to the combined quest for food security and agricultural transformation that nourishes and sustains billions in these two regions. The partnership could give a big boost to the African Union's vision of a dynamic and resurgent continent through sustainable land and water management, improved rural infrastructure and market access, and increased food supply

(Top) A girl walks past a banner of the African Green Revolution Forum at the Accra international Conference Centre in Ghana, in September 2010.

(Left) A rice farm in Senegal.

This will provide a continuing engagement and the skills acquired are expected to be ploughed back into their home countries.

The India-Africa partnership, based on reciprocity, could therefore become central to the combined quest for food security and agricultural transformation that nourishes and sustains billions in these two regions. The partnership could give a big boost to the AU's vision of a dynamic and resurgent continent through sustainable land and water management, improved rural infrastructure and market access, and increased food supply. These measures are going to be the cornerstone for the long-term food security in the continent.

FORGING A SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

Lt. Gen. (Retired) Rajender Singh

Former Force Commander of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Today, Africa figures more significantly in the security and geo-strategic considerations of many important outside actors than it did before. It is fast emerging as one of the most sought-after destinations for bilateral engagement by many countries

(Top) Indian Army officers with members of Ex-Hot Dunes, a Botswana commando force, during a joint exercise in Botswana in 2011.

(Right) Indian Army cadets along with their Nigerian counterparts at the National Defence Academy, Kaduna, Nigeria, in 2007.

India's relations with Africa are conditioned and energised by our historical linkages and the strong political foundations of the past. New Delhi's approach towards the African continent reflects a balance between our values and interests. It takes into account the diversity of Africa as well as the policies of other key players.

Today, Africa looms larger in the security and geo-strategic considerations of many important outside actors than it did before. Indeed, the continent is fast emerging as one of the most sought-after destinations for bilateral engagement by many countries. Africa is clearly on the cusp of resurgence and India intends to play an active role in spurring the continent's transformation. However, when parts of Africa were torn by conflict, and restoring and maintaining peace became a priority, India had also come forward to help in the United Nations peacekeeping missions in different African countries, including Congo, Somalia, Liberia, Burundi, Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

India needs to build on this legacy and step up defence cooperation initiatives with Africa in a spirit of mutual trust and confidence. Let me elaborate in the light of my experiences in Africa.

Experiences in Angola

My experiences in Africa date back to 1995 when I was sent to Angola as Regional Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Mission. For someone who never had a chance to venture out to Africa, this was a unique experience. Despite the fact that there was a ceasefire between the rebels and the government forces, tension persisted and both parties were unwilling to trust the other. The UN appointed me as the Commander of the Central Region and I had a challenging task since the rebel headquarters was based there. Though the presence of the Indian diaspora in Angola was not very significant, one thing that struck me was the tremendous goodwill Angolans had towards India.

India can play a major role in empowering and training the administrative machinery and security apparatus in African countries to meet the emerging security challenges. This can easily be coordinated and steered under the aegis of the African Union

(Clockwise from top left) Soldiers of the Indian Army on a peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kenyans from the port city of Mombasa at a medical camp organised by visiting Indian Navy officers.

Uniforms on display at the museum of the Indian Army Training Centre in Holleta, Ethiopia.

Kenyan Navy officers aboard INS Ganga, the guided missile ship of the Indian Navy, on a port of call at Mombasa.

Almost everyone knew about Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. When the Indian troops landed there, the media hailed their arrival, calling them peace-keepers from the 'land of Mahatma Gandhi'. This kind of goodwill and trust in India was to be an important factor which facilitated our task tremendously.

On reaching Angola, I felt awed by the natural beauty and wealth of the country. But I was equally struck by the thought that Angola could well have been one of the richest countries of the world, given the abundance of its natural resources like diamonds, minerals and oil, but for its internal turmoil. The ongoing conflict had led to a massive destruction of infrastructure, reducing the ordinary people to a state of abject poverty. This also meant that there was plenty of opportunity for countries willing to come forward and help Angola rebuild its infrastructure like railways, roads and bridges. I was happy to learn that India had in fact stepped in and contributed towards the rebuilding of this fine nation.

My stay in Angola for the next one year was quite eventful and full of ups and downs as far as managing the security situation was concerned. But in the end we managed to convince the UNITA rebels to give up arms and join the rehabilitation camps, or "Quartering Areas", as they were called, for the sake of peace. For the most part, our success in doing so was due to the extensive humanitarian work done by the UN Forces, particularly the Indian contingent, in rebuilding the civil society.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

My insight into African society and culture deepened during my tenure as the Force Commander of the UN peacekeeping force in Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2006. During this time, we were not only able to interact with the top echelons of the two governments, but also get an insight into the functioning of the African Union which was based in Addis Ababa. Since the UN mission spread over a large area in Eritrea and Ethiopia, we also gained first-hand knowledge about the living conditions of the civilian population there. While we had to work extremely hard alongside the Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General to maintain the peace in this challenging environment, my being an Indian definitely helped.

In both Ethiopia as well as Eritrea, there was enormous goodwill for India. Most political leaders and important members of the civil society invariably had good words to say about Indians. They often remembered their Indian teachers with fond nostalgia. Many senior army generals also used to talk similarly of their instructors in the Indian Military Academy.

The Indian Army, which has served in Africa as 'Soldiers of Peace', has consistently given a fine account of itself in UN peacekeeping operations. India's image has burned bright in Africa as our troops there have operated with admirable professionalism, ingenuity and compassion. They have been at the forefront of bringing succour to the suffering civilian population.

India's military, that has served in Africa as 'Soldiers of Peace', has consistently given a fine account of itself in UN peacekeeping operations. India's image has burned bright in Africa as its troops there have operated with tremendous amount of professionalism, ingenuity and compassion

(Top) African military officers at the National Defence College in New Delhi.

(Right) A contingent of the Indian Army guards villagers in the Democratic Republic of Congo during a peacekeeping mission.

FORGING A SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

During my tenure as the UN Force Commander, we launched a programme called 'Winning Hearts', aimed at synergising our military operations with developmental projects. We accorded particular priority to the rehabilitation of the unemployed youth and the resettlement of the refugees displaced during the war. It was a sustained and well-coordinated initiative based on consultation with the local civil administration of the two countries. Every effort was made to ensure that the basic needs of the people such as food, water, medical and veterinary aid didn't go unaddressed. Wherever possible, we helped dig wells and build infrastructure such as check-dams, bridges and school buildings. The 'Winning Hearts' programme was almost entirely spearheaded by the Indian contingent, which used for this purpose its own resources or funds provided by the Indian Government.

In Africa, I also had an opportunity to interact with many foreign/defence ministers and the army chiefs of African countries like Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. Almost all of them emphasised the great potential of enhancing defence cooperation with India, particularly in the field of training and security sector reforms.

Our ambassador in Ethiopia also initiated a number of other measures which had gone a long way in increasing the levels of cooperation with Ethiopia and the African Union, including defence cooperation.

Currently, India has military-to-military cooperation activities with almost a third of African nations. This includes the presence of Indian military training teams in many countries, including Botswana, Zambia, Lesotho, Seychelles and Ethiopia

(Top) A delegation of Sudanese army officers at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, Mhow, India, in 2008.

(Right) The United Nations' first all-women peacekeeping force comprising more than 100 Indian policewomen, arrived in Liberia, in 2007 to help keep the peace in the west African country.

Defence Cooperation

India has had the good fortune of participating in peacekeeping as well as reconstruction operations in Africa. After my arrival in Ethiopia, when I called on the Prime Minister, he told me that my presence there was doubly welcome because India was much more than just a friend to his country; it was really like a brother. The leaders of Eritrea echoed similar warm sentiments.

Despite the recent improvement, uncertainty in the security environment is still an issue in some parts of Africa. Therefore, there is an urgent need to not only empower the countries in this direction but also to bring about urgent security sector reforms. India can play a major role in empowering and training the administrative machinery and security apparatus to meet the emerging challenges. This can easily be coordinated and steered under the aegis of the African Union.

India, with the world's second-largest army, has demonstrated that it is a responsible stakeholder in the international system. It has gainfully employed its military in defence cooperation activities at the global level. An important element of our current policy relates to defence cooperation with select countries in Africa in order to assist their forces through training programmes and exposure to best practices of India's armed forces. Our high standards of training and infrastructural facilities are a major contributing factor in this direction. The presence of English-speaking officers among the African armies makes it easier for us to impart training.

Over the years, India has trained a large number of African officers in various military institutions. Currently, India has military-to-military cooperation activities, primarily related to training, with almost a third of African nations. This includes the presence of Indian military training teams in many countries, including Botswana, Zambia, Lesotho, Seychelles and Ethiopia.

Training teams were also earlier deployed in Nigeria and Tanzania. India's active participation in the UN peacekeeping missions in Africa has also led to Indian contingents playing an important role in training army personnel in conflict-afflicted countries like Congo, Sudan, Mozambique, Rwanda and Angola as part of post-conflict peace-building. We have also undertaken the supply of military hardware to a few countries like Kenya and Seychelles in the past.

A constructive engagement with African countries is in our long-term strategic interest. Given the growing presence of some of the big powers in Africa, it is prudent that measures are taken to engage African countries, both individually and as regional groups, more effectively. Military diplomacy needs to be more viably harnessed to further bolster overall relations between India and African nations. Additionally, building capacity of the African Union forces, especially in the fields of logistic management and communication and information systems, for which it is

Maritime security is one of the major threats to the region. India can establish a system of regional cooperation with Indian Ocean littoral countries to combat threats of terrorism, armed robbery and piracy from non-state actors

(Top) A reception for the Indian Navy in Maputo, Mozambique. Four Indian Navy ships from the Western Fleet visited the port of Maputo in 2010.

(Left) Indian marine commandos in an anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden.

largely dependent on external support, is an area of priority.

Maritime security is one of the major threats to the region. India can establish a system of regional cooperation with the Indian Ocean littoral countries to combat threats, from non-state actors, of terrorism, armed robbery and piracy. We should also explore the feasibility of conducting different forms of multilateral defence cooperation involving select African nations and India.

The Way Forward

India recognises the African countries' focus on capacity-building and human resource development. As a result, Africa today is the largest recipient of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. India's growing economic synergy with Africa is quite visible in the expansion of bilateral trade over the years. What is urgently needed is a new boost to our defence cooperation.

Stronger military ties with African nations would provide excellent opportunities to combat security challenges. We have been on the right track, but we need to recognise that the unfolding change in Africa is complex, that its pace is rapid and inconsistent, and that the competition for Africa's affection and attention has become increasingly intense. India will need to deepen its engagement with the specific goal of fulfilling Africa's needs and aspirations in accordance with our capabilities and interests.

"The commerce between India and Africa will be of ideas and services, not of manufactured goods against raw materials after the fashion of Western exploiters"

MAHATMA GANDHI

MAHATMA AND AFRICA: DIALOGUE OF IDEAS

Ahmed Kathrada

South African politician and veteran anti-apartheid activist

"We in South Africa owe much to the presence of Gandhi in our midst for 21 years. His influence was felt in our freedom struggles throughout the African continent for a good part of the 20th century. He greatly inspired the struggle in South Africa led by the African National Congress"

NELSON MANDELA
Former President of South Africa

The history of our people's struggle for freedom and justice in South Africa would be incomplete without taking into account Mahatma Gandhi's innovative and significant contribution. Gandhi arrived in Durban in May 1993 as a young lawyer, who had been briefed in a civil case instituted by a South African Indian businessman. Furthest from his mind was any idea of a lengthy stay or involvement in politics. However, within a matter of days or weeks he was hit by a bolt from the blue — the harsh reality and humiliation of racial discrimination.

- He was ordered by a white magistrate to remove his turban in court.
- On his journey to Pretoria by train on a first class ticket, he was physically thrown off the train because a white passenger objected to traveling alongside an Indian.
- After landing in Johannesburg he was refused accommodation in a hotel.

Gandhi refused to suffer in silence the humiliation and indignity. The cumulative effect of his experiences led him to form the Natal Indian Congress in 1894. (Interestingly, this was 18 years before the African National Congress was formed in 1912.)

First Passive Resistance

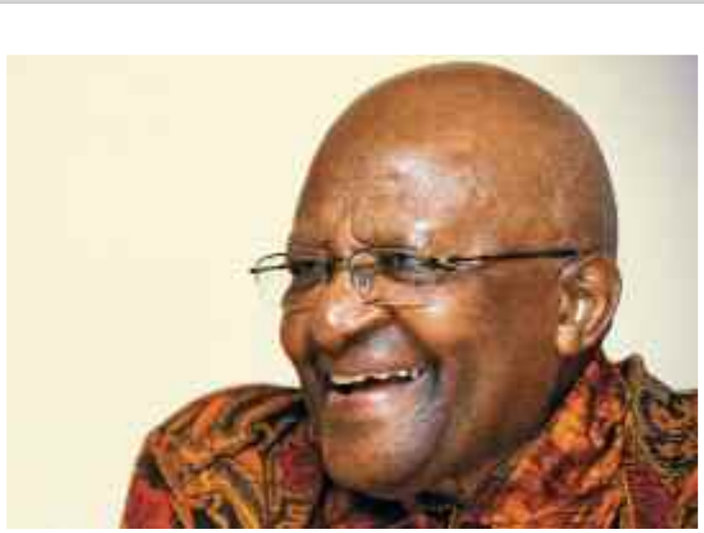
Between 1906 and 1910, Gandhiji helped the Indian community in the Transvaal Province to resist the anti-Indian "Black Act", which required all Indians to register and give fingerprints for identification and acquire what came to be known as "passes". The failure to get these passes constituted a criminal offence.

The first Gandhian form of non-violent passive resistance took place on July 12, 1908, when Gandhi, in the presence of some 3,000 protesters, set alight his own pass. Hundreds of enthusiastic followers joined in burning theirs. In the aftermath of the pass-burning, about 2,000 passive resisters, including Gandhi, broke one or the other of the provisions of the "Black Act" and suffered imprisonment.

(Top) Gandhi with his wife Kasturba and fellow settlers at the Phoenix Settlement, Natal, South Africa, in 1906. South Africans suffered major loss of life and property in the war against the British. To help the war victims, Gandhi set up an ashram at Phoenix, outside Durban. He also formed the Indian Ambulance Corps to provide medical aid.

(Above) Gandhi with his colleagues outside his office in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1905.

(Right) Gandhi as a satyagrahi in South Africa, propagating the power of non-violence.



“We South Africans boast that we have a rather substantial share in the great soul — the Mahatma—whose philosophy, life and actions have inspired us greatly. So, we legitimately lay a claim to a fairly significant part of Mahatma Gandhi. He was pivotal in the struggle against South African racism and honed his political skills in South Africa”

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU
Nobel Laureate

(Left) Gandhi with the Indian Ambulance Corps during the Boer War of 1899-1900, South Africa. The Boers, descendents of the Dutch-speaking settlers in southern Africa, had revolted against the British Empire. Gandhi served a lot of wounded people in the war.

“Mahatma Gandhi was our torchbearer without whose guidance the history of our struggle for freedom and national independence would have taken a different course”

KENNETH KAUNDA
Former President of Zambia

(Right) Gandhi, the attorney, with his assistants in South Africa.

Second Passive Resistance
But the regime not only ignored the feelings of the affected people; it went ahead with even more drastic and oppressive anti-Indian legislation. In 1913, it introduced the Immigrants’ Regulation Bill, which ignored all previous undertakings and abrogated numerous rights earlier enjoyed by the Indian community.

The Chairman of the Transvaal British Indian Association, A.M. Cachalia, in a letter to the Government, pointed out the iniquities in the Bill and made clear the intentions of the Indian community to again embark on a passive resistance campaign.

Before the commencement of the campaign, Gandhi also informed the Government of the Indian community’s firm resolve to resort to passive resistance. This was a bold and significant advance. Led by Gandhi, the Transvaal British Indian Association mobilised thousands of volunteers to defy the law by illegally marching across the border from Natal into the Transvaal.

Coinciding with this protest was a strike by nearly 4,000 Indian coal miners in Newcastle, which was joined, in solidarity, by many others — from municipal and domestic workers to those working in factories and on sugar plantations, bringing the total number of strikers to 25,000. In Durban, the police shot and killed six strikers and wounded many. These events brought together the common grievances of the workers and the incipient Indian middle-class. Gandhi’s marchers were joined by thousands of strikers, many of whom were arrested and jailed. A significant feature of these protests was the active participation of women.

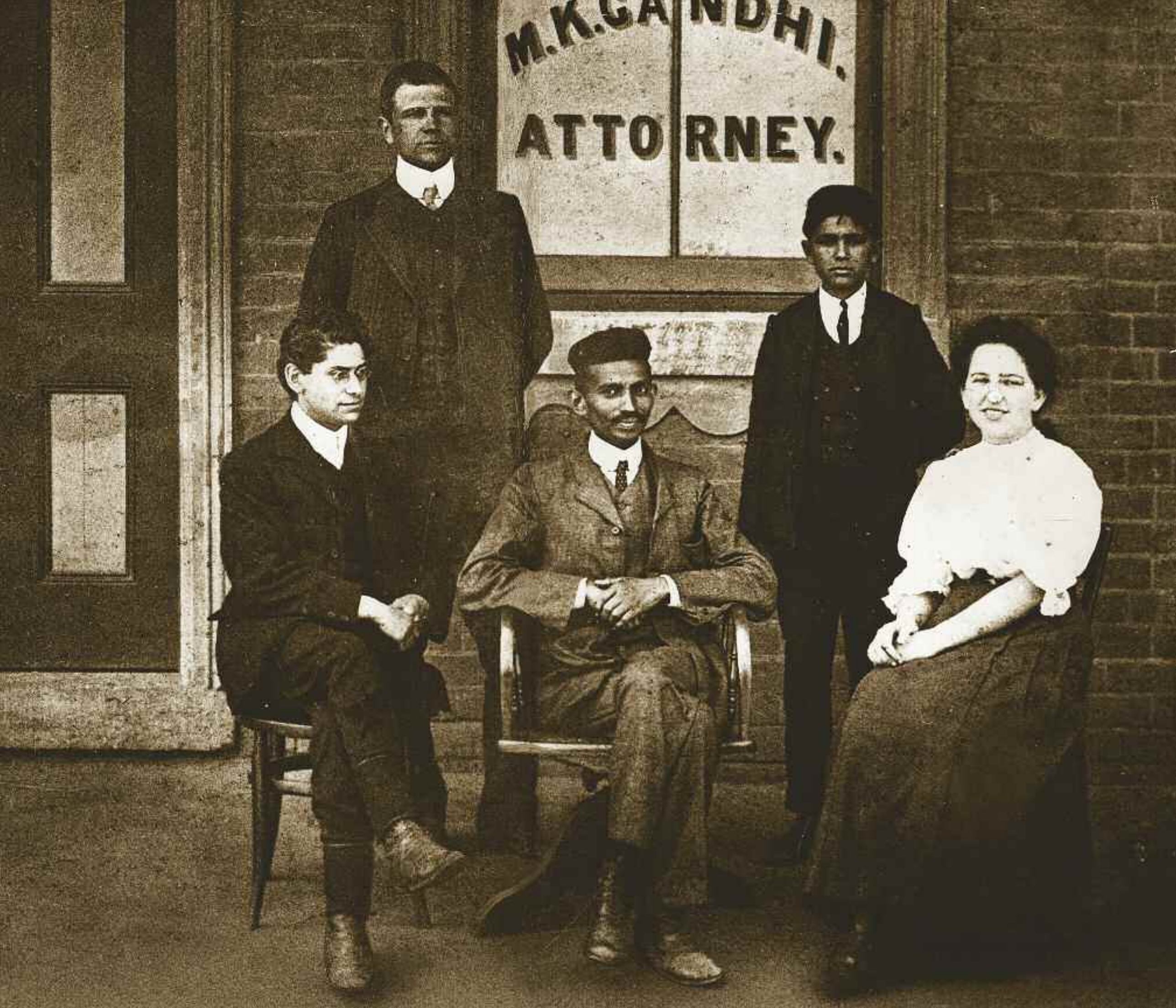
Gandhi Departs from South Africa
In1914, Gandhi left South Africa to return to India. Not long thereafter, Indian politics in South Africa experienced a lull. The leadership of the newly-formed South African Indian Congress (which was made up of the Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal British Indian Association) consisted mainly of businessmen, who were primarily interested in protecting and promoting their own interests. Defiance and passive resistance made way for the politics of resolutions, petitions and delegations to the Government.

Gandhiji’s legacy was all but forgotten.

Revival of Gandhian Spirit
Towards the late1930s, the political scene began to change once again. People such as Dr. G.M. Naicker, Dr. Yusuf Dadoo and Dr. K. Goonam returned home after completing their medical studies in Scotland. Having settled down in their practices, they began to turn their attention to politics. In this, they were soon to be joined by the stalwart lieutenants of Gandhi’s earlier campaigns.

In 1938, Dr. Dadoo was among the leaders instrumental in forming the Non-European United Front, which advocated the unity of all oppressed people.

In 1939, led by Dr. Dadoo, this Front, along with one faction of the Transvaal Indian Congress, set out to organise a passive resistance movement against a law which aimed at “keeping the Indians in their place”. The initiative was


M.K.GANDHI.
ATTORNEY.

(Left) Gandhi with officials of Transvaal British Indian Association (TBIA) in Johannesburg, in 1912. TBIA was formed by Gandhi in 1903 to protest against an anti-Indian legislation in South Africa.

(Top) Gandhi's unique mode of non-violent protest, satyagraha, became a mass movement as thousands of South Africans joined it to air their anger against British rule.

(Above) Gandhi and his wife Kasturba at a farewell gathering with his colleagues at Durban before his departure for India.

(Right) Gandhi and Kasturba in Durban.

"Mahatma Gandhi was able to assert through non-violence the civil and political rights of an oppressed nation. He, thus, blazed the trail that was later followed by Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela"

ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA
President of Algeria

(Left) Gandhi's home in Johannesburg has become part of the common cultural heritage of Indians and Africans.

enthusiastically received, especially by the youth, who volunteered in large numbers. Messages of support were received from Gandhiji and the All India Congress Committee.

A mass meeting held on June 4, 1939, to chalk out the future course of action was violently disrupted by gangsters allegedly employed by another faction of the Transvaal Indian Congress. Nine persons — all supporters of passive resistance — were severely injured; one of them, Dayabhai Govindjee, died later.

While preparations for the launch of passive resistance were going on, Gandhiji learnt of the behind-the-scenes efforts of the British and Indian Governments to bring about a favourable settlement. He advised the Passive Resistance Committee to postpone the launch.

In response, Dr. Dadoo issued a statement: "Mahatma Gandhi has been our guide and mentor in all that the Passive Resistance Council has been doing...we shall whole-heartedly await his advice."

A New Leadership

In 1945 and 1946, elections in two provinces resulted in the victories of Dr. Dadoo and his supporters. The legacy of Gandhiji was once again enthusiastically revived. In 1946, under its new leadership, the South African Indian Congress passed resolutions,
i) to launch a passive resistance campaign against the Ghetto Act.
ii) to call upon the Indian Government to impose economic, diplomatic and other sanctions against South Africa, and further to raise the issue of the treatment of Indians at the United Nations. The Government of India agreed to take necessary action on all the above requests.

In keeping with its resolution, the South African Indian Congress launched a passive resistance campaign against the Ghetto Act on June 13, 1946. A plot of land in Durban that had been declared "For Whites Only", was identified as the venue for the act of defiance.

Over the next few months, nearly 2,000 volunteers occupied the plot of land and were imprisoned. While most received a one-month sentence, leaders like Dr. Naicker, Dr. Dadoo, Dr. Goonam and others were given longer terms. From the first day, many women volunteers took an active part in the protest and landed up in jail.

The Government of India complied with the resolution of the South African Indian Congress in its entirety.

In 1947, Dr. Dadoo and Dr. Naicker visited India at Gandhi's invitation. The same year, the African National Congress and the Indian Congress signed a Pact of Unity. Called "The Doctors Pact", it was signed by Dr. A.B. Xuma, President of the African National Congress; Dr. G.M. Naicker, President of the Natal Indian Congress; and Dr. Y.M. Dadoo, President of the Transvaal Indian Congress.
In 1952, the African National Congress and the South Africa Indian Congress jointly launched the 'Defiance Campaign against Unjust Laws'. The campaign was opened by four prominent Congress leaders when they defied restrictions that

“The great Mahatma Gandhi whetted his appetite for freedom on African soil. Having suffered the indignity of colonial oppression and racism in South Africa, he evolved the liberation philosophy of Ahimsa and Satyagraha that eventually became the bedrock of the freedom movement of the oppressed in both India and Africa. In so doing, the Mahatma brought the dream of freedom to so many millions of the colonised and the oppressed”

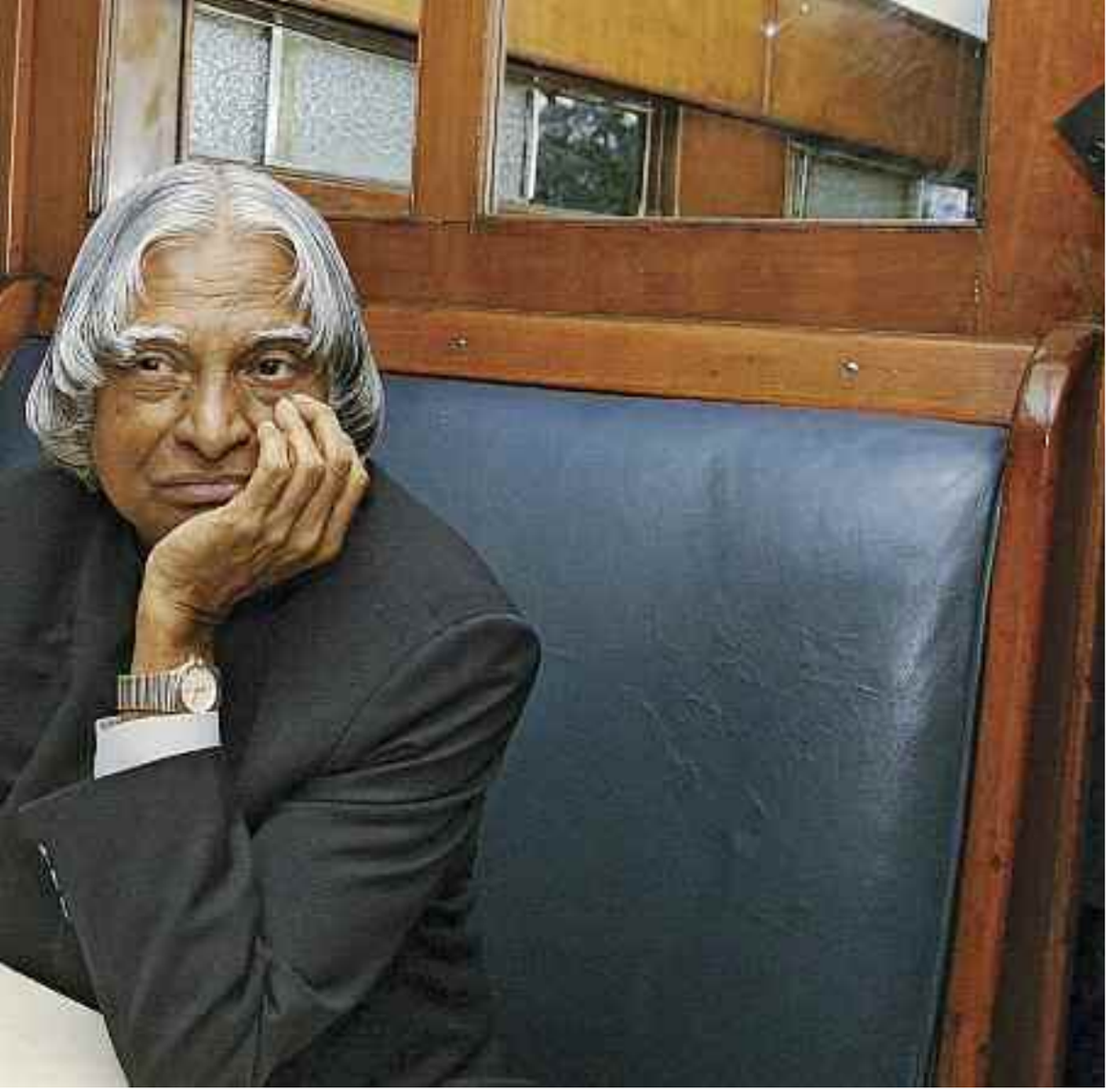
MWAI KIBAKI
President of Kenya

(Clockwise from top left):
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, on a train ride in 2004 to Pietermaritzburg, the historic station where Gandhi was thrown out of a first class coach. This act of injustice provoked Gandhi to wage a life-long struggle against British imperialism.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who visited South Africa in 2006 on the 100th anniversary of Gandhi’s launch of Satyagraha, looks on as the then President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, lights a candle at the former residence of Gandhi.

Gandhi Square Plaza in Johannesburg.

Mahatma Gandhi’s granddaughter Ela Gandhi and great-grandsons Kidar Ramgobin and Satish Kidar scatter his ashes in the Indian Ocean, off Durban.



GANDHI SQUARE

"Gandhi walks through our histories leaving imprints that still direct the paths of both India and South Africa. Gandhi's philosophies remain as relevant today as they were during their formulation and practice in his lifetime. It is these beliefs that have ensured the continuity of our relations over the years and led to the strengthening of political, economic and social ties between our two nations"

JACOB ZUMA
President of South Africa

(Top left) Gandhi with Kasturba at the end of his17-year stay in South Africa, which transformed the young lawyer into the unchallenged leader of India's freedom movement.

(Top right) Gandhi's son Manilal with a female companion at Sarvodaya, Gandhi's cottage at the Phoenix Settlement, in 1917.

(Left) Gandhi with his mentor and Indian freedom fighter Gopal Krishna Gokhale and others in Durban in 1912.

had been imposed on them by the security police. They were arrested.

Thereafter, on June 26, the first batch of about 50 volunteers defied an apartheid law and were jailed. The joint leaders of the batch were Walter Sisulu, Secretary General of the African National Congress, and Nana Sita, President of the Transvaal Indian Congress.

Besides these campaigns, there were numerous strikes, demonstrations and boycotts. While Gandhi's name may not have been overtly invoked during all these protests, the campaigners followed in his footsteps by adhering to his ideals of non-violence, peaceful resistance, and civil disobedience.

On April 27, 1994, after over 350 years of racial oppression, the people of South Africa — black and white — celebrated the rise of Nelson Mandela as the first President of a non-racial, non-sexist democratic South Africa. While the event made immediate global headlines for its significance as the most peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy in the modern era, it was, in a slightly different historical perspective, just another victory for the enduring strength and appeal of the Mahatma's legacy.

SHARED HISTORY, CONVERGENT CULTURES

Neeti Sethi Bose and Fakir Hassen

From Marrakesh to Maputo, from Dakar to Durban, Bollywood songs and films enthrall and enchant Africans. Canoeists in Cairo belt out Indian film songs. Say 'India' in Sudan, and the Sudanese are likely to hum their favourite Bollywood song

(Top) Egyptian folk troupe Al Tannoura performing at the International Festival of Sacred Arts at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi, in 2010.

(Right) A performance by Urukerereza, traditional ballet dancers from Rwanda, during the Africa Festival in New Delhi, 2010.

Shared histories, kindred values and intertwined cultures. Traces of India and Indian cultural influence can be seen across Africa. From Marrakesh to Maputo, from Dakar to Durban, Bollywood songs and films enthrall and enchant Africans. Say "India" in Sudan, and the Sudanese are likely to hum their favourite Hindi film song. Chapatis are served for Christmas and biryani is a must for wedding receptions in various East African countries. And samosas are forever.

Indian-origin words and expressions like duka, kachumbari and harambee are firmly embedded in the warp and weft of Kiswahili. A troupe of blind musicians from Egypt and devi dancers from Burkina Faso cast their spell on Indian audiences in New Delhi. India's Nizami Brothers' Qawwali group and classical vocalists such as Pandit Jasraj and flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia send audiences into raptures in African towns.

Indian and African writers share the stage and discuss profound ideas at the 'Shared History: The Indian Experience' festival that provides a platform for dialogue and collaborative work between Indian and South African musicians, literary figures and dancers. This cultural connectedness and transfusion between the people of India and Africa is not accidental. It is rooted in history and tradition.

Indian traders set sail in wooden dhows centuries ago to African countries circling the Indian Ocean. In his travelogue, the legendary Marco Polo writes of seeing merchants from Gujarat and Saurashtra on Africa's East Coast and praised them as "the best and the most honourable that can be found in the world". Subsequently, Indian trade with East Africa expanded so much that the rupee replaced the Maria Theresa thalers as the principal currency in the region. The construction of the railway line between Mombasa and Kampala in late 19th century was another milestone in the history of India's tryst with Africa that brought in around 34,000 Indian indentured labourers and led to greater cultural inter-penetration.

In fact, Indian contacts with Africa date back to prehistoric times. Often attributed to the early ancient trade links directed by strong monsoon currents that led seafaring traders to traverse the Arabian Sea and establish profitable economic connections, the links between the Indian subcontinent and the African continent can be traced back deeper into time, to the shifting of landmass,

(Right) Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan performs with South African cricketers at a concert organised in Durban in January 2011 to commemorate 150 years of the arrival of Indian indentured labour in South Africa.

(Left) Indian film icon Amitabh Bachchan with performers of the Nateshwar Dance Academy, in Natal, South Africa.

(Below) A girl goes through DVDs of Nigerian and Bollywood films in a shop at the Nigerian film market in Lagos. Nigerian cinema, also called Nollywood, is Africa's largest movie industry. Yet, Indian films are also very popular in the country.

With more corporate sponsorships flowing into the game, some 400 Africans have been lured by big money into top football clubs of India. Many more are expected to come and play here in the time to come

(Top) Suley Musah, the Ghanian captain of East Bengal, India's leading football club, holds aloft the ASEAN Cup in Kolkata, India, in 2003.

(Right) Rival African footballers vie for the ball in an Indian I-League match between East Bengal and Pune F.C. Over 400 Africans are currently playing club football in various parts of India.

AN AFRICAN TOUCH TO INDIAN FOOTBALL

At a time when Indian football is trying to catch up with the rest of the world, African players have given a new boost to the beautiful game in the country. Some 400 of them have been lured by big money into top football clubs. Many more are expected to come and play here in the time to come.

Pick any of the 14 I-League teams and you cannot but help notice the African presence. These players have come from Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Liberia, Congo and play pivotal roles in their club's fortunes. The top clubs shell out up to $2.5 million a year for a good player. But there are others who come here for half that amount or play while studying in India. Most importantly, they add a dash of colour and excitement to the domestic season.

In fact, it was Nigerians Emeka Ezugo and Cheema Okerie who used to be the star attraction in Kolkata teams during the 80's. The two not only left the Indian fans in a thrall with skill and power in their boots but also opened a window for other Africans to play in India, who came as students and found a way out to earn good money.

The first African name to strike a chord was David Williams who represented Tamil Nadu state in the 1970s before premier club East Bengal picked him up. Last year, Congolese striker Mboyo Iyomi played a key role in I-League champions Dempo's success to become the first Indian club to qualify for the AFC Cup semifinals.

Mumbai FC recently recruited two Ghanians — Michael Osei and James Dissimariah — who had played with Chelsea star Michael Essien in Ghana. "We were inspired by Essien's success overseas. We also wanted to come out of our country and prosper. India gives us good money and the experience to become a tough professional," says Dissimariah.

Former India captain and Olympian P.K. Banerjee feels Emeka and Cheema have made a great impact on Indian football. "Of all the overseas footballers, Cheema and Emeka were a class apart and no wonder they played World Cup," he says.

Like the Nigerians, Ghanians Yusif Yakubu and Suley Musah have brought in a high level of professionalism to Indian teams. Englishman David Booth, now in charge of Mumbai FC, had the experience of coaching in Ghana and he says that Africans do not hesitate to venture out into the wide world of football for better prospects.

"African players will go and play in any country. In India, they are the key players in the clubs they play for as they are the most dependable. Playing with and against them, Indian players have benefited both the skill wise and stamina wise," said Booth, who had also coached Mahindra United in the past.

In the last two years, Africans have emerged top goal scorers in the I-League. Churchill Brothers striker Odafe was the best player of the inaugural I-League in 2007-08 and in the ongoing second edition he has been in tremendous form.

"India made me famous. Had I stayed back in Nigeria, I wouldn't have achieved all this name and fame," says Odafe.

JCT coach Sukhwinder Singh feels players like Odafe are crowd pullers and good advertisement for the game. "In the past, people used to come to see Cheema and Emeka. There was a dip in between, but now Odafe is creating waves in the I-League," says Sukhwinder, a former national coach.

African footballers have not only blossomed in the Indian domestic league but have also been crucial to the success of Indian clubs overseas.

Ghanian Musah led East Bengal to become the first Indian club to win an international tournament, the ASEAN Cup in 2003. Burly Nigerian Mike Okoro also played a crucial role by scoring a goal in that final for the Kolkata team.

(Abhishek Roy)

PENINSULA

Over the years, close interaction between the Indian diaspora and their adopted homelands has spawned a rich tapestry of shared culture, cuisine and worldviews

(Top) Geoffrey Mutai of Kenya waves after winning the gold medal at the Delhi Half Marathon, along with the silver medallist Lelisa Desisa (left) of Ethiopia.

(Right) African runners at the Delhi Half Marathon in 2010.

SCORCHING INDIAN TRACKS

For many African long-distance runners, running a marathon is not just a sport, but a way to life. They have emerged as a dominant force in distance running, sweeping the medals in all the top marathons held in India in the last few years. At the Nagpur International Marathon earlier this year, Kenyans John Kui won the full marathon for men while Jem Muya won the women's race in the third edition of the tournament that saw participation by more than 50 international athletes from 16 countries.

The story of the Airtel Half Marathon in Delhi, which has now been granted the status of Gold Label Road Race by the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) is similar. Since its inception in 2005, East African runners have been dominating the race in the national capital. Kenyan Philip Rugut won the inaugural race in 2005 and since then, the champions have been from Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

The Mumbai Marathon, which is a part of 'The Greatest Race on Earth', has also been dominated by African runners. The race became an IAAF Gold Label Road Race in 2010, confirming its status as one of the more prestigious competitions in the road racing calendar. Ethiopians Girma Assefa and Koren Yal dominated to win the men's and the women's title in the race in the latest edition. Indian sports administrators are sitting up and taking notice of this African skill. The India's Army Institute of Sports in Pune is now training runners along the lines that Africans do.

World champion cross country runner Gebreegziabher Gebremariam from Ethiopia spells out the factors why Africans are emerging as champions in long-distance running.

"All over the world, African runners are making a living out of running — thanks to the environment in which they grow up. All top African runners basically come from poor countries and small villages. While they are growing up, they have to walk miles to go to school or to other places. This helps them to become natural athletes and that is the main reason why they are excelling in middle- and long-distance running," said Gebremariam.

Runners from Kenya, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia are now among the favourites to win the big money marathons, which are held all over the world.

"Running has been a profitable career for us. You don't need to invest anything to be a good runner. You have to just put on your running shoes and run for hours. And, unlike football, running does not need much infrastructure for training," he said.

Gebremariam pointed out that African countries have now taken over from traditional athletics powerhouses like Europe and the US. "American athletes are made in gyms, while Africans are born on the roads."

(Abhishek Roy)

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EVANS RUTTO
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African Lifestyle Unisex Salon & Boutique
BRAIDS

commonly known as Gondwanaland. The connection between India and Africa, home to an over-two-million-strong Indian diaspora, has been a continuous process of socio-cultural and economic exchange.

Contact between Africa and India during early and ancient civilisations is reflected in the knobbed pottery vases that came to Sumer from India and the cotton. In the Akkadian language Indian cotton was called vegetable cloth. It seems that Assurbanipal (668-626 B.C) cultivated Indian plants, including the wool-bearing trees of India. The period from the middle of the second millennium BCE to the beginning of the Christian era saw societies in the Indian subcontinent develop major transportation networks for long-distance trade with Western Asia and the Mediterranean and through there into Africa, facilitated by the domestication of beasts of burden.

The Silk Route, the Amber road and the trans-Saharan trade route were instrumental in establishing links between Africa, India and beyond. By the second millennium BC, organised caravans could carry goods across on camels which allowed Arabian traders control of the long-distance trade of spices, silks and other luxury goods. The writings of the early Greek and Roman historians and travellers perhaps give us the first reference to these links. The Greco-Roman maritime trade contact with India was established via the Red Sea ports and saw a vast increase following the Roman annexation of Egypt. With an increase in Greco-Roman trade, spices became the main import from India to the Western world, bypassing silk and other commodities. The presence of African sailors, known as Siddis, stands out as a unique example of Indo-African relations. “The Siddis were a tightly knit group, highly aggressive, and even ferocious in battles, who were employed largely as security forces for Muslim fleets in the Indian Ocean. They retained this position for centuries and became revered commanders and were titled Admirals of the Mughal Empire.” (Runoko Rashidi in *The African Presence in India*).

Those regions in Africa that the British colonised saw the advent of the first Indian settlers in Africa who were taken or lured there as labourers, administrators or traders. The descendents of these people of Indian origin in Africa today find themselves deeply involved in the social, cultural, economic and political fabric of their countries of residence. Over the years, close interaction between the Indian diaspora and their adopted homelands has spawned a rich tapestry of shared culture, cuisine and worldviews. The Wot and Alicha, staple side dishes in any Ethiopian home, are very similar to Indian curries, as is an Ethiopian appetiser called sambusa, consisting of ground spiced vegetables or meat in a deep-fried triangle of dough, similar to the Indian samosa much savoured across the continent.

In South Africa, the first Indians to arrive as sugarcane plantation indentured labourers invented a quick and nutritious meal called bunny chhow to save time as they toiled away on the fields. Legend has it that the bunny chow was named after Gujarati traders who launched

One can pick up DVDs of Indian films in most African towns. In some places, it has led to the mushrooming of sidewalk video shows in Ethiopia where live interpreters translate the movie to the audience squatting around a TV set

(Top) Indian composer A.R. Rahman enthralls the audience at a show in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2010.

(Far left) A Swaminarayan Temple in Dar es Salaam. The Temple Street here is also the hub of the Gujarati community in Tanzania.

(Top left) Diwali celebrations in Port Louis, Mauritius.

(Below left) An African hair and beauty salon in New Delhi, owned by Nigerian national Casmir Nwakaeze.

(Overleaf) The highly-acclaimed Egyptian Blind Girl’s Chamber Orchestra enchants music lovers in New Delhi.

businesses after arriving in Durban and created the dish. Today the bunny chow — a hollowed-out quarter or half loaf of bread filled with a curry of choice — is a popular dish among all communities in the country. The traditional Indian mango achar (pickle) brought to Africa by the first Indian settlers has been adapted to cater to local tastes with a variety of indigenous fruits and vegetables being used in innovative versions of the popular pickle.

The Indian influence on education, small trade and cuisine is as real as the influence of Bollywood. Canoeists in Cairo belting out Raj Kapoor film songs for Indian visitors, or street kids in Ethiopia singing the popular Bollywood song “I love my India” when they see an Indian, are common phenomena. Starting from the official screening of the classic ‘Mother India’ in many African countries to the huge success of ‘Disco Dancer’ starring Mithun Chakravorty in the 1980s to the popularity of contemporary Bollywood icons like Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai, Bollywood has created a powerful fan following cutting across all age groups. One can pick up DVDs of Indian films in most African towns. In some places, it has led to the mushrooming of sidewalk video shows like the video-baets in Ethiopia where live interpreters translate the movie to the audience squatting around a TV set.

Africa’s love affair with Indian cinema goes back a long way and can be divided into two distinct categories — the pioneering Indian businessmen of South and East Africa who started the first cinemas to show Indian movies as far back as the 1930s, and local communities, black, white and Arab, across the continent who could relate to the similarities of the morals and values of Indian culture as reflected in Indian films. In North and West Africa, many communities such as the Hausa see Indian culture as being similar to their own in terms of the value systems. They cite examples of how the men in Indian films often wear ornate coats, similar to the Hausa dogon riga, and waistcoats, much like the Hausa palmaran. The popularity of qawwali performances by artists from India in South African rural towns, the remarkable resemblance of many traditional African traditional shirts worn by men to the kurtas used in India and the wraps of African women and the Indian dupatta or sari and the popularity of the Indian salwar kameez in Africa are all examples of this shared reality.

Cultural interaction has found patronage from institutions like the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), which has taken an eclectic range of Indian dance and music groups to various African capitals. It’s an uplifting sight to see Africans swaying to spiritually stirring performance by Delhi’s Nizami Brothers’ Qawwali group. African audiences, probably familiar with the sitar and tabla, have also experienced the music of such traditional Indian instruments as the sarod and sarangi. Performances by classical music exponents are as popular as Bollywood stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Anil Kapoor and Sonu Nigam.

The historical ties between India and Africa and their shared heritage have created unique dance forms where stylised movements of bharatanatyam and kathak fuse with the traditional

rhythms of the African gumboot dance of miners and the dances of Zulu warriors in traditional leopard skins. Dr Vinod Hassel, a fourth-generation dancer from India, pioneered the teaching of Indian dance to African youth in townships nearly 15 years ago. Blending traditional African percussion instruments and dance steps with flowing kathak and modern Indian dance forms, Hassel's innovative example was soon to inspire a whole generation.

Beyond the world of music and dance, what brings India and Africa together is a shared value system. Says eminent scholar Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai: "I am no Orientalist, but I know that African cultures and the cultures of India are convergent. The two cultures are based on very similar weltanschauung. For millennia, they have emphasised the oneness of existence, the harmony between gods, nature and human beings. They both believe in the formula: I am because we are."

It is this sense of cultural affinity and kinship that led South African President Jacob Zuma to underline the historic and unique relations between India and Africa that hark back to the struggle against apartheid. "We have been together through difficult times as well as happy times. I enjoy the (Indian) music and the food. We are at home in India," says the charismatic African leader.

The historical ties between India and Africa and their shared heritage have created unique dance forms where stylised movements of bharatanatyam and kathak fuse with the traditional rhythm of the gumboot dance of miners and the dances of Zulu warriors in traditional leopard skins

(Top) A Burkina Faso group cast its spell with the devi (goddess) dance at the Sacred Arts Festival in New Delhi.

(Left) A performance by a music troupe from Nigeria during the Africa Festival in New Delhi.

THE ROAD AHEAD: THE CENTURY OF INDIA AND AFRICA

The 21st century is often described as the Asian century. India wishes to see the 21st century as the Century of Asia and Africa with the people of the two continents working together to promote inclusive globalisation. Events in India and Africa in the middle of the 20th century changed the world. Today, we have a second chance to take charge of our own destiny, and give new meaning to the concept of sustainable, equitable and environment-friendly development.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH
Prime Minister of India

Our global relationship must not become entrenched in purely commercial interests. We are certainly still far from having explored the full potential of cooperation between us, especially in areas where Indian expertise has become a world reference point—in the pharmaceutical industry or the information and communication technologies sector. It is up to us to forge this dynamic of cooperation into a genuine partnership that meets the aspirations of our people. Today, Africa is a reliable and credible partner.

ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA
President of Algeria

We expect synergies that can push forward the fight against ignorance, disease, hunger and poverty to make Africa and Asia the ineluctable players for a more just and more humane 21st century, with fewer conflicts and without the serious threat of global warming, international crime, terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

JOSEPH KABILA KABANGE
President of Democratic Republic of the Congo

Investments are welcome to Africa to promote value addition, as well as in infrastructural development; for instance, in railways and ICT. The partnership between India and Africa should give us a leg-up and enable Africa to surmount these challenges.

YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
President of Uganda

What we in Africa are looking for are technologies better equipped to tackle Africa's needs like food and agro-processing, health, water and sanitation, and rural development. Technologies in India are robust and better suited to the African environment. Strong linkages are needed between industry and science and technology to prioritise innovation as part of the broader strategy to improve competitiveness.

MWAI KIBAKI
President of Kenya

India is unchallengeably the world's largest democracy. We call for closer exchanges between our parliaments, political parties and local governments that have important contributions to make in our development. In building enduring democratic systems in pluralistic societies, we believe that Africa can learn a lot from India.

DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN
President of Nigeria

Our ties with Africa go back centuries and have been nourished by close people-to-people engagement. We have been partners in struggle against colonialism. In the 21st century, we have moved to a new paradigm—one in which we seek to cooperate with each other to build a better life for our peoples. This partnership is anchored in fundamental principles of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit and has derived impetus from the resurgence of Africa and India's sustained economic growth.

S.M. KRISHNA
External Affairs Minister, India

Africa and India have been in a long-term relationship. There is a very strong linkage between the Indian government and the African Union. I can only hope we shall continue to act together and with the new leadership in Africa, we shall benefit from the experience of India. India is a very dynamic and democratic society.

WANGARI MUTA MAATHAI
Environmentalist and Nobel Laureate

The Indian experience of development is quite relevant to what is going on in Africa. There is a lot we can learn from India on how it lifted up from where it was 20-30 years ago. Our history is quite similar. We can take lessons from India's experience in dealing with poverty, green revolution, transformation of agriculture, the development of IT and small and medium enterprises. There is a lot India can share with us.

GILBERT FOSSOUN HOUNGBO
Prime Minister of Togo

Indian multinational companies, small and medium enterprises and individuals are already investing in Africa, and the results are encouraging. Indeed, we would like to reiterate our warm invitation to all Indian business people to make huge investments in Africa, and join our efforts geared to boosting and diversifying our economies, thus contributing to African development.

AIRES BONIFACIO BAPTISTA ALI
Prime Minister of Mozambique

Today, we are carrying on together with the fight on the economic and social solidarity front, both being indispensable for the liberation of our peoples, because political independence will, like an incomplete symphony, remain an incomplete undertaking if economic sovereignty is not achieved.

ABDOULAYE WADE
President of Senegal

India and Africa should learn from their struggle for independence and Mahatma Gandhi's role in it. It was his commitment that India and Africa should work together. Now, the partnership between India and Africa will be the defining one of the 21st century.
I reaffirm India's solidarity with Africa. We need to devise innovative approaches to promote peace, stability, democracy and the well-being of our citizens and nations.

ANAND SHARMA
Commerce and Industry Minister, India

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Nandan Nilekani currently holds the rank of Union Cabinet Minister and is the Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India which aims to provide a unique identification number to all residents of India. Prior to that, he was the Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of Infosys Technologies Limited which he co-founded in 1981. Time listed him as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2006 and 2009. In 2006, he was awarded one of India's highest civilian honours, the Padma Bhushan.

Ratan N. Tata is Chairman of Tata Sons, the promoter company of the Tata Group, since 1991. He is also the Chairman of a clutch of Tata companies, including Tata Motors and Tata Steel. He is on international advisory boards of Mitsubishi Corporation, the American International Group, JP Morgan Chase, Rolls Royce, Temasek Holdings and the Monetary Authority of Singapore. He is a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry and has greatly encouraged Tata companies to invest in Africa.

Sunil Bharti Mittal is the Chairman and Managing Director of Bharti Airtel Ltd., a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 21 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. Mittal is widely seen as a pioneer of the cellular phone revolution in India. Bharti Airtel's acquisition of 15 telecom operations in Sub-Saharan Africa for $10.7 billion, the largest foreign direct investment into Africa from India, opened a new chapter in the history of India-Africa ties.

Sanjay Kirloskar is the Chairman and Managing Director of Kirloskar Brothers and also served as the Chairman of the CII Africa committee. After participating in India's "Green Revolution", Kirloskar Brothers has led the initiation of the green revolution in various Southeast Asian and African countries by providing Triple A (or Appropriate, Adaptable and Appropriate) technologies for water management solutions.

Ahmed Kathrada is an African National Congress (ANC) leader. An anti-apartheid activist and a veteran of the South African liberation struggle, Kathrada spent years as a political prisoner with Nelson Mandela on Robben Island. He was voted 46th in the Top 100 Great South Africans in 2004 and was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in 2005.

Manish Chand is Senior Editor with Indo-Asian News Service (IANS), a leading Indian media company, and Editor of Africa Quarterly, a journal focused on India-Africa relations which is published by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. He has presented papers at international seminars and written widely on issues relating to the emergence of Asian powers in Africa and the African renaissance.

Renu Modi is a senior Lecturer and former Director of the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai. She has edited many books, including 'Beyond Relocation: the Imperative of Sustainable Resettlement' and 'South-South Cooperation: Africa on the Centre Stage'. She has also served as social development consultant with the Inspection Panel of the World Bank in 2005.

Lt. Gen. (retd.) Rajender Singh has held many prestigious national and international positions, including Deputy Director General, Military Operations, at Army Headquarters. A decorated professional soldier, he has been conferred the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, India's highest military distinguished service award. He served as Regional Commander of UN forces in Angola in 1994-95 and was later appointed as the Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Ethiopia and Eritrea from 2004 to 2006.

Fakir Hassen is a Johannesburg-based journalist and writer. He has been writing on affairs of the South African Indian community for local and international publications for more than three decades. He published a book in 2010 entitled '150 Bollywood Encounters — the South African Connection' to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first indentured Indians to the country.

Dr. Neeti Sethi Bose is an Indian academic, a curator and a development professional. She has conducted capacity-building trainings with young designers, craftspeople, weavers, small entrepreneurs and exporters in Africa and India.